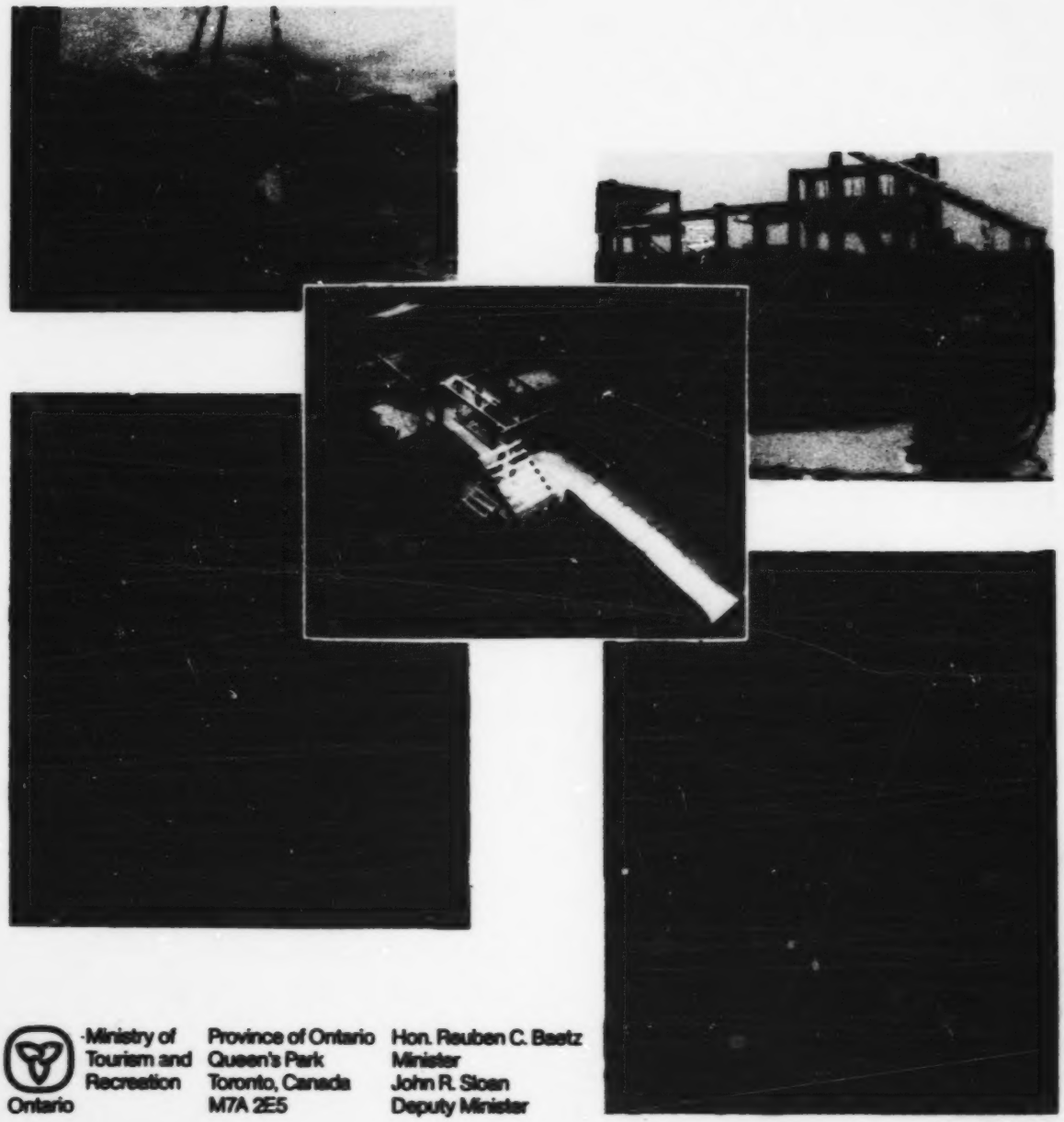
The Children's Playground of the Future

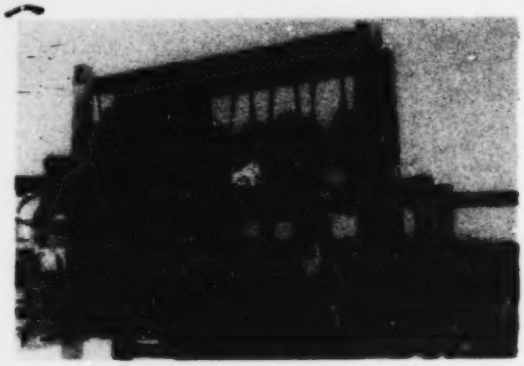


Ontario

Ministry of Tourism and Recreation

Province of Ontario
Queen's Park
Toronto, Canada
M7A 2E5

Hon. Reuben C. Baetz
Minister
John R. Sloan
Deputy Minister



"It is difficult for children to grow up emotionally stable if they are denied space and freedom to take and overcome risks, and if they are denied the opportunity to meet and make friends with others of their own age."
- Lady Allen of Hurtwood: Planning for Play

"We do everything for our children - we educate them, we train them, we discipline them, we direct them and yet we haven't really taken full advantage of the only thing they offer us freely – their desire to PLAY.

We haven't as yet bothered to really study this most important phase of a child's life and turn it into a constructive productive learning experience."
- A.B. Etkes: American Architect.

"Play is the child's work. The world is his laboratory and he is the scientist. Play is the research by which he explores himself and his relation to the world."
- M. Paul Friedberg

"Nothing ever becomes real until it is experienced" - John Keats.

Material prepared by Diane Humeniuk
Printed by **alliance press inc.**

2M/7/83

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Acknowledgements

I wish to thank many people for their encouragement and support in the preparation of this publication:

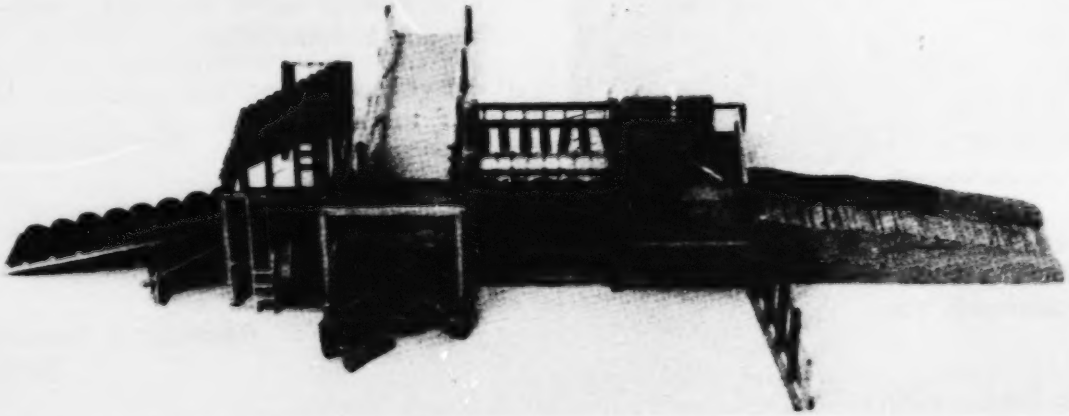
The Town of Newmarket and especially the Recreation Department, have assisted our community in the opportunity to develop a playground for ALL children.

Whipper "Billy" Watson, a great Canadian humanitarian, and a man who believes in the rights of each and every child, has also influenced the development of this project.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for supporting and funding this publication. I also wish to acknowledge Children's Playgrounds Inc. and Landscape Planning Limited, for their guidance in pioneering this concept of playground design.

The most important supporters of this project were my family. Their patience and understanding have certainly meant a great deal.

"A STRUCTURE FOR ALL CHILDREN"



"It is our task to create a sympathetic environment in which the children can flourish"
- Lady Allen of Hurtwood.

Town of Newmarket

ONTARIO

HEART OF THE REGION OF YORK

171 MAIN ST.
NEWMARKET, ONTARIO

As Mayor of the Town of Newmarket, I wholeheartedly endorsed and supported the construction of an integrated playground for children in our community. I feel this type of facility provides an area for all children to play together and thereby serves as a strong foundation in their learning to accept and understand each other. The Playground is the first to be constructed in Newmarket and has proved to be a very successful project and has filled a great need within the community.

Although the International Year of Disabled Persons has come and gone, as Mayor, I will continue to consider the needs of disabled persons through programs in curb cutting, reconstruction of public facilities, and in the areas of recreation and transportation.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond J. Twinney,
Mayor.

TOWN OF NEWMARKET
ONTARIO
HEART OF THE REGION OF YORK

Town of Newmarket

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

BOX 328 - 171 MAIN STREET
NEWMARKET, ONTARIO
L3Y 4X7

The Newmarket Recreation Department is indeed proud to be part of the Playground of the Future development located at Quaker Park in Newmarket.

Special acknowledgements are extended to Mrs. Diane Humeniuk and the Committee for their pursuit of an integrated play structure for the community.

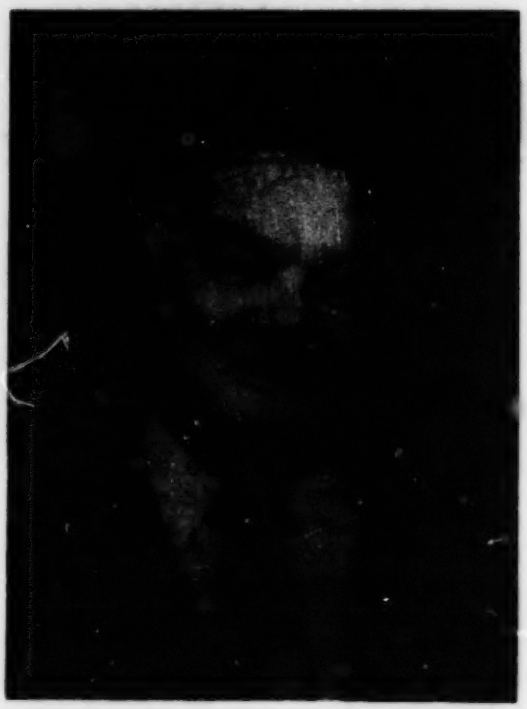
The concept of play is not new, however it would appear that the concept of integrated play for children of all walks of life and all abilities is somewhat long overdue. "Play is the means whereby the child in fantasy comes to know reality and play is perhaps the most important aspect of a child's growth."

Throughout the years, the Playground of the Future in Newmarket will hopefully become a model whereby other integrated play structures can be initiated by the community for the benefit of the community.

Throughout the development of the Playground of the Future there was a sense of co-operation and community zeal to benefit each other and thereby benefiting the community. Too often we overlook the fact that there are individuals in a community who with some assistance from the so called establishment barriers, can be broken down figuratively as well as emotionally.

Throughout this publication there will be many references to community involvement and community development. There was however, one common denominator, and that was to develop a concept through planning co-operation for the enjoyment of the child. It was indeed a pleasure to be involved with this development process. Let us hope that the idea is not forgotten in future.

W. Daniel Shannon,
Commissioner of Parks
and Recreation.



Whipper Watson

Whipper Billy Watson

- *Honourary Vice-President Multiple Sclerosis of Canada.*
- *Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled*
- *Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled (C.R.C.D.)*
- *Recipient of:*
  City of Toronto Award
  Dale Carnegie Award
  Order of Canada 1977
  The Medal of Ontario 1979
  Ontario Medical Association Award 1982
- *Past member of The Executive Board & Board of Directors of the Easter Seal Society (37 years).*
- *Member of the Board of Directors: Bob Rumble Centre for the Deaf.*

"I feel very angry when I hear people say "that poor crippled child" and offer nothing but sympathy, instead of compassion, love and understanding.

The most recent experience to me and thousands of people in Canada, was a young man named Terry Fox.

He has done more to unite all Canadians to a better understanding as to what "disabilities" are all about.

When he began his twenty-six mile a day run, this was one of the most amazing miracles to happen in our lifetime, and in no way did Terry cover up the fact that he was disabled or had cancer.

If I hadn't had the opportunity to be witness to this magnificent effort, I would never have believed it.

There may never be another such person in our time as Terry Fox, but he was certainly an inspiration for all our young people.

I hope through this miracle, that we will all become more understanding of what each and every community must do. It is their responsibility to make accessibility part of their every day life, whether it be PLAYGROUNDS, housing, transportation or support services.

I am interested in what happens to all communities in the country where I live. In my 37 years of volunteer work with disabled children and adults, I have seen many changes, but there MUST be more advancements not only by government, organizations and corporations, but by people like you and I.

You can make all these things become a reality and the day will come that there will be no discrimination towards those who are hoping that their world will become like yours and mine."

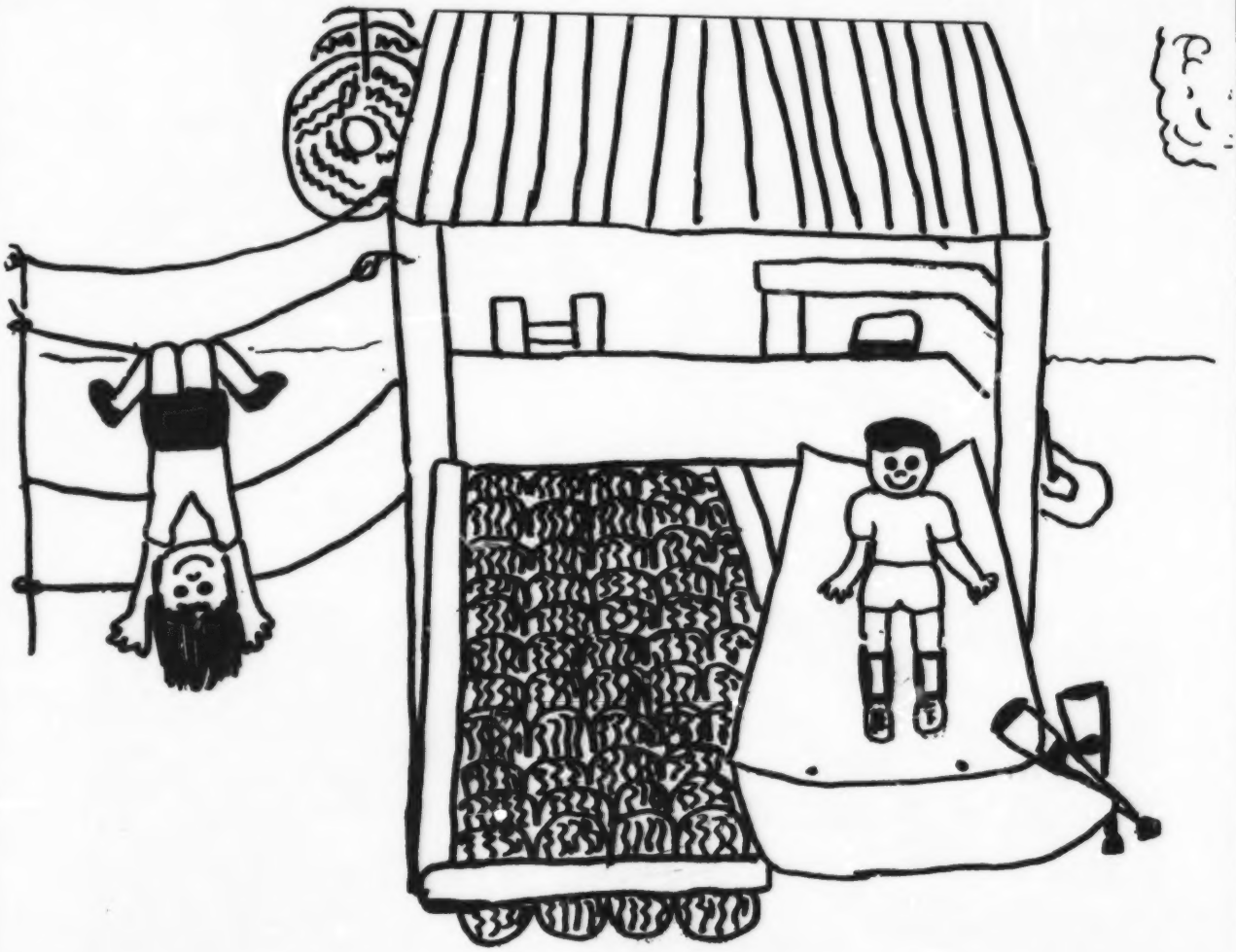
INTRODUCTION

This publication provides information about the development of a playground in NEWMARKET, Ontario, that facilitates the needs of children who are handicapped and those who are non-handicapped – AN ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND FOR ALL CHILDREN.

This book will focus on the following areas:

Background information, concept, planning, areas researched, public awareness, the playsite, landscape design, drainage, problem areas, community involvement, fund raising, construction, specifications, safety, and materials.

"ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO PLAY" - Lady Allen of Hurtwood.

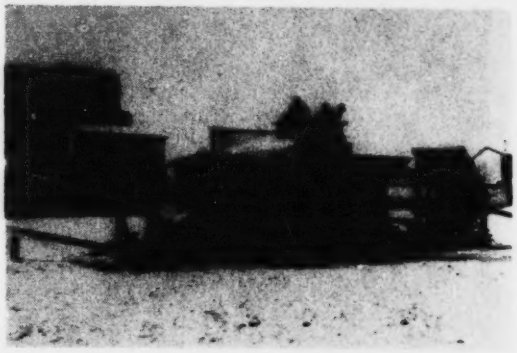


Wendy Reid
Age 11
Newmarket

BACKGROUND:

The Project:

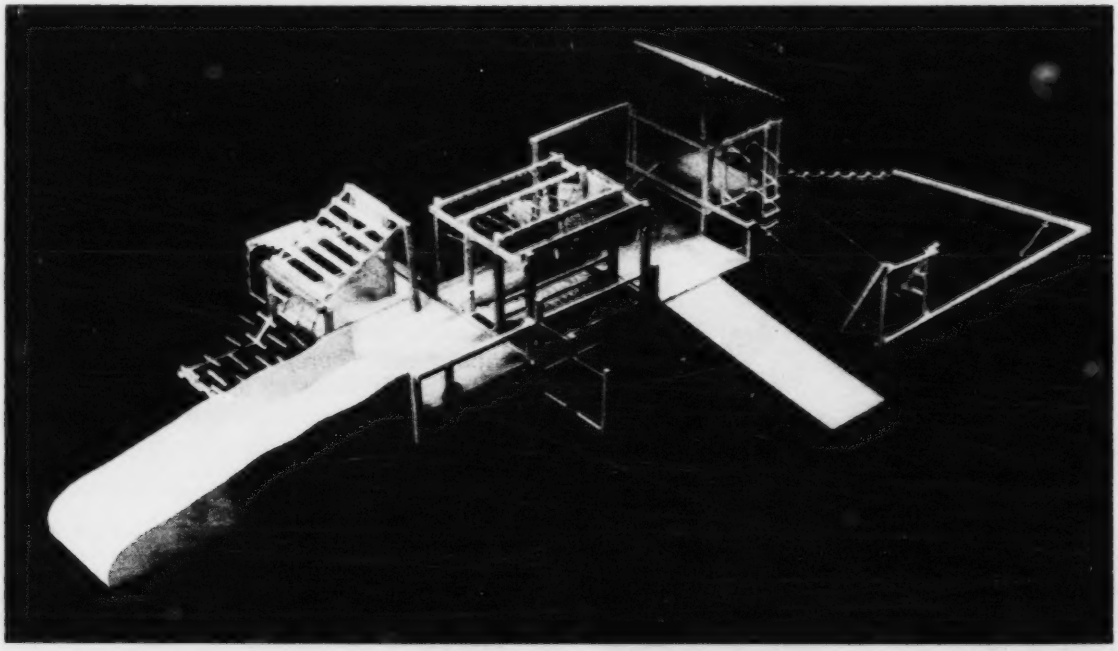
To construct a playground unit to facilitate all children in a truly integrated design.



The Goal:

To co-ordinate a community project combining the United Nations themes of The International Year of The Child (I.Y.C.) and The International Year Of Disabled Persons (I.Y.D.P.) in the Town of NEWMARKET, Ontario.

" A STRUCTURE FOR ALL CHILDREN"



THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Children comprise over 40% of the population and are the biggest potential asset of any country (1).

As stated by Lady Allen of Hurtwood: *"Children's most important business is play." (2)*

"Play" is an important part of a child's educational learning process and muscular development. It is through "play" that children gain a sense of real accomplishment, contributing to a positive feeling of themselves.

A playground also provides children with an area for social interaction with their peers. Consideration, sharing and co-operation are also experienced and learned in these surroundings.

The importance of play can not be stressed enough or overlooked.

Children through experimentation, curiosity, observations and manipulation of their surroundings are learning every minute of the day. In turn these experiences assist in the development of their self-expression, awareness, emotions, identity and their own personalities.

Lady Allen of Hurtwood stated:

"All children need a place to play. They need space, informality, freedom to run around, and make noise and express themselves. Therefore children must be provided with challenges and risks to overcome to help them build up their self-confidence and independence."

"Play is an educational process and a learning experience for all children." - Ulrick Henke.

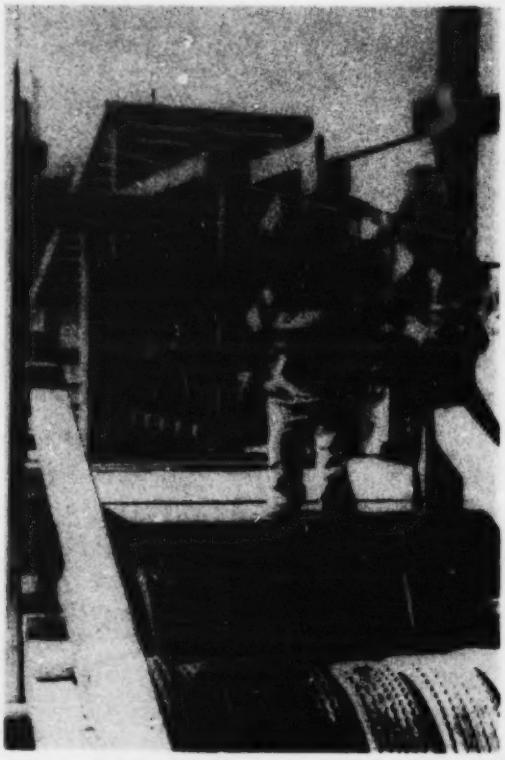
"Adults must take seriously their responsibility for providing the children with opportunities for healthy growth, and learning through play will give them satisfaction, a sense of competence and the joy of creativity." (3)

It has been stated several times that "play" is an important part of any child's development, and that includes the child with a disability as well.

"Play is fun, joyful, therapeutic and educational." (4)

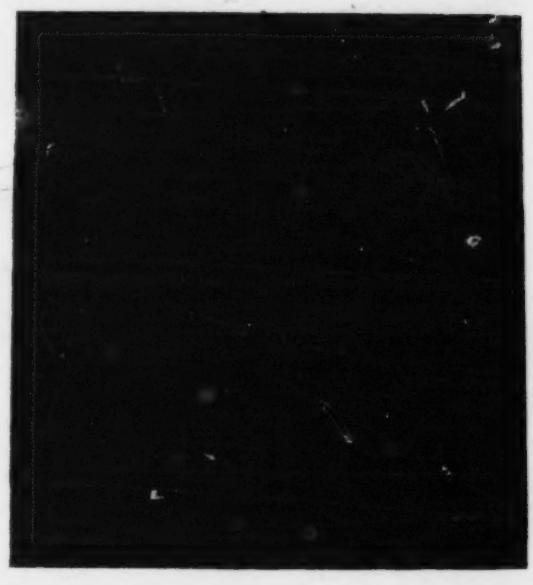
"Children with a disability want to enjoy as best they can within the limits of their disability, the activities that all children choose to enjoy.

They want to play and work with the other children not only for accomplishment, but for ego, strength and development." (5)



THE GERMAN PHILOSPHER AND EDUCATOR FRIEDRICH FORBBEL captured the essence of play in childhood when he wrote:

"Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood, for it alone is the free expression of what is in a child's soul."



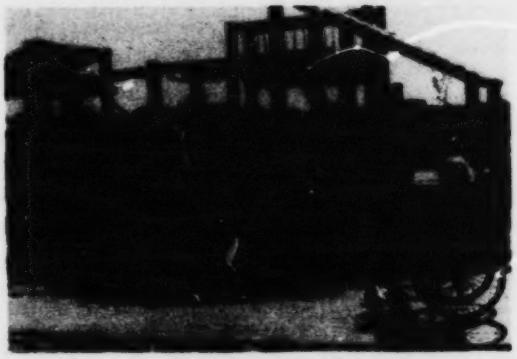
(1) An overview of the needs of children and youth in the urban community - by Polly Hill.

(2) Lady Allen of Hurtwood: Landscape architect, world renowned for her adventure playgrounds, founder and first chairman and past president of H.A.P.A. (Handicapped Adventure Playgrounds Association.)

(3) Landscape Architect William Rock Jr.

(4) Horst Henke: President of Children's Playgrounds Inc.

(5) Dr. Howard A. Rusk, M.D. (The Design of a Pre-School Therapeutic Playground: An Outdoor Learning Laboratory - by Ronnie Gordon: Asst. Professor of Clinical Rehabilitation Medicine - New York University Medical Centre and Director - Infant and Preschool Developmental Programs.



CHILDREN'S NEED TO PLAY

"All children at play . . . disabled or able, want to give full reign to their natural spontaneity, creativity and imagination." (1)

Children with special needs have a will to play equally as intense as that of the nondisabled child, but are hampered by a disability (i.e. deafness, blindness, mental retardation or physical or emotional disturbances.)

"Play" for the child with special needs, can be difficult. The child may become frustrated at challenges or circumstances beyond their limited abilities and therefore reluctant to try again.

Children, especially the child with a disability, must find their own standards of challenge and various levels of skill. They must be given the freedom of choice, use of imagination, and development to create as well as experience adventurous activities.

Standard playgrounds as we know them today, do NOT provide this challenge to all children. It seems that just nondisabled children have physical access to playgrounds and play units, and in many instances, because of the design of the playground, children with a disability are barred access.

"Children need play in order to sense the kinetic feedback and sensations from muscles, tendons and joints. They also need play in order to learn and practice the social graces of give and take in the real world. In short, the play environment has the potential to become a microcosm of the real world." - Dr. Joseph Levy, Associate Professor, Department of Recreation, University of Waterloo.

(1) Youth and Recreation Branch, Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

INTEGRATION

Playgrounds should be accessible to all children. Segretation, because of a child's ability or disability, is UNDESIRABLE.

The nondisabled child has much to learn from a child with a disability and vice-versa.

In some cases however, it is difficult for a child who is severely disabled to join in the activities of the nondisabled child. In this case, these children have the opportunity to go to specially designed and equipped playgrounds, but they are usually located in the city, and not in the suburban communities.

In England, it is found that urban developments have greater numbers of families with children who have a disability and usually less suitable play facilities. (1)

"We must remember a child who has a disability is first a child and secondly a child with a disability."

"The disabled child is a child with the same needs, desires, thoughts, and drives as other children." (2)

(1) Adventure Playgrounds for Handicapped Children - H.A.P.A. by Lady Allen of Hurtwood, F.I.L.A., Founder, First Chairman and Late President of H.A.P.A.

(2) Becoming Aware - Ministry of Culture and Recreation - 1978 by Dorris Willard.

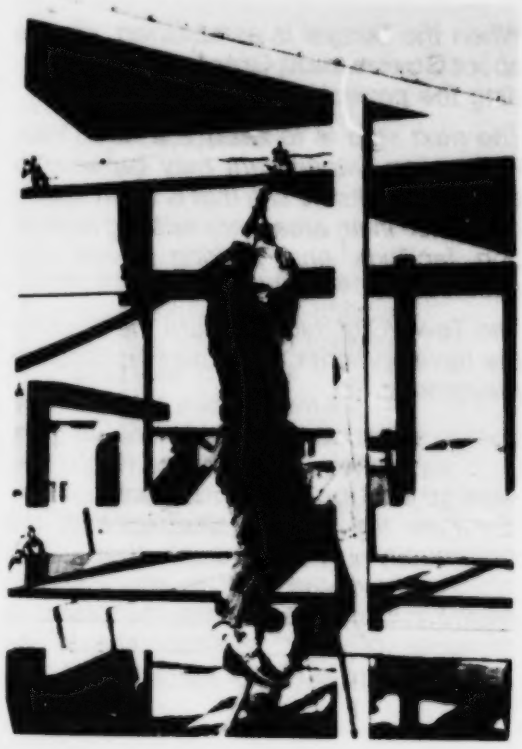
"I see the disabled child as a whole child, not seeing their disability. So many disabled children and adults are very able, while many able bodied people may not apply themselves fully in reaching their capabilities" - Whipper Watson.

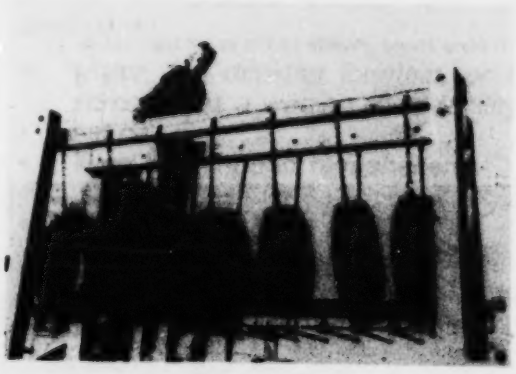
David Humeniuk
Age 9
Newmarket

CHAPTER TWO

Wendy Reid
Age 11
Newmarket

PLANNING





General Comments

New residents in a subdivision, often make contacts with their neighbours through their children and therefore it seems logical that an attractive playground will become a meeting place.

"Most public space" currently in use in new Canadian housing developments is purely ornamental, that is completely adult-oriented. Patches of "bad land" which are not good for anything else, are designated as playgrounds - unrelated in position, size or relevance to the needs of the children who will use them."

"Nothing in our knowledge of child development indicates that we should continue to reproduce in ever increasing quantities, static swings, slides and teeter-totters in ashphalt deserts. They are maintenance free and good insurance risks, but also vandalism-inspiring and utterly boring, on top of being completely alien to the developmental needs of the children." (1)

(1) C.M.H.C. - 1978: An overview of the needs of children and youth in the urban community - by Polly Hill.

The Playground

First you must estalish the **need** *for the playground site. If there are no other facilities available in an immediate area, and certainly not an accessible playground, then it should be easier to justify the need.*

A **survey** *would be conducted in the community to establish the number of children with a disability who would benefit from an accessible playground.*

A **committee** *should be formed. The Committee consisting of doctors, therapists, child specialists, social workers, nurses, parents of teenagers and children with a disability, representatives from various departments of the Town or City and interested citizens should be considered.*

"Expectations can be very unrealistic, so it is important to form a committee and have them consult with a builder of playgrounds to establish the design and strike a budget" (1)

The committee should request several playground designers to present their **proposals for the construction** *of the playground, and naturally these proposals dictate the budget that would be required.*

The committee would then have an idea of the approximate apparatus cost, and would be able to establish a **budget** *outlining capital costs, operational or running costs (projected over a three year period).*

When the budget is established, inquire about **Government Grants** *or aid for funding the project.*

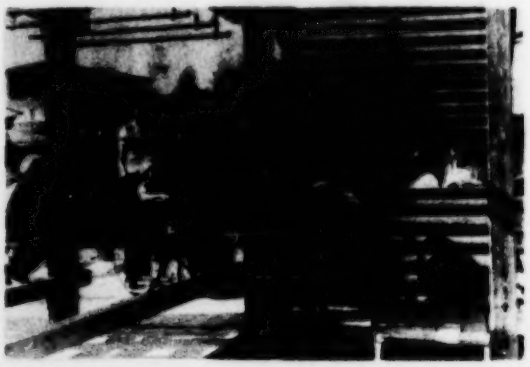
The next step is to **secure a site.** *Your Recreation Department may be able to suggest a suitable site that is open space or located in an area were existing recreation facilities and parking space are situated.*

The Town/City might donate the land for the development of the future accessible playground.

Design and outline your plans. *Examine the various disabilities in the community. The concept that "ALL children have the right to play" should now be incorporated into the plans; a designer of play facilities should be selected, and a model constructed.*

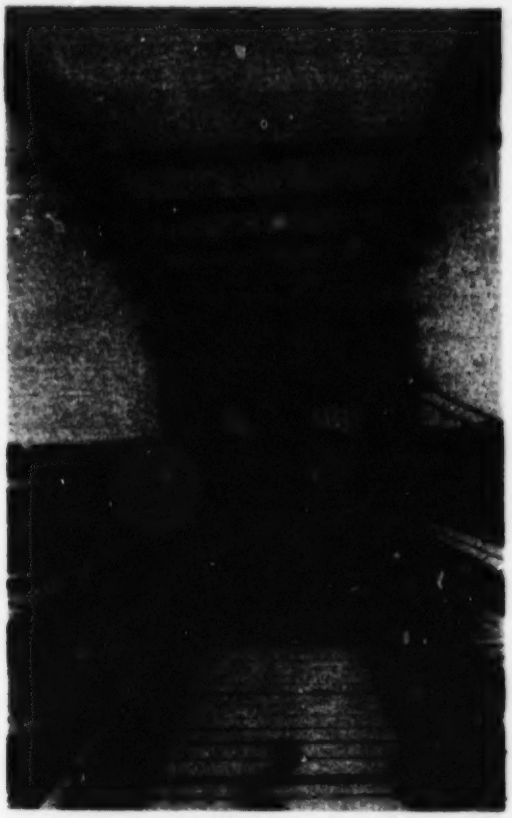
Contact a **landscape architect** *to design the land surface and contour.*

(1) Horst Henke: President Children's Playground Inc.



The committee should incorporate the **four basic principals of playground planning:**

(1) participation
(2) variety
(3) physical comfort
(4) safety



Other **important points are:**

- *accessibility to all children*
- *provide moving equipment*
- *changes in levels*
- *colours and textures*
- *natural objects & man made objects*
- *open areas & enclosed areas*
- *quiet locations*
- *private areas*
- *sunny areas & shady areas*
- *dry areas & wet areas*
- *wide pathways to facilitate wheelchairs*
- *accessibility for maintenance*

The **physical comfort** *of the participants at the playground should also be considered.*

- *water, - a drinking fountain, or in some cases a wading pond facility.*
- *shade*
- *wind barriers and rain shelters*
- *washrooms*
- *sitting area & quiet area*
- *parking and accessibility*
- *ratio of elevation to be considered specifically for those in wheelchairs.*

What to consider when designing the unit

Many aspects are considered when designing a playground structure.

(1) The number of children at one time that will be using the apparatus.

(2) The age of the children.

(3) The surrounding environment (water, forest, rocks, hills etc.)

(4) The needs of the children. Are there existing parks and what facilities do they offer?

(5) Are there children in the community with special needs? The design should facilitate all children's needs.

(6) An area for social interaction, such as a play house, should be included in the design.

(7) Children between the ages of 4 to 8 socialize. Between the ages of 8 to 11 become very involved in physical activity. Children 11 through 16 socialize. Consider all their needs through these various ages, and in a natural progression of development when establishing the over-all layout or design of the play structure. The children grow from one area of the playground into another without fear and seem to know their own capabilities.

(8) Do not construct a playground with so much equipment that the child's mind is limited and there is no room for imagination.

Components of a Playground

Variety

Variety is one of the keys to an interesting and well used playground.

Consider a variety of materials and textures, such as sand, water, wood and gravel when planning a playground.

It is important to incorporate a variety of materials, and a variety of equipment into the playground. The equipment should be accessible to all children with such activities as climbing, sliding, swinging, pushing, balancing, lifting, and pulling.

Climbing

Children enjoy climbing cargo nets, through rubber tires, or wooden climbers.

Sliding

Sliding is especially enjoyable if the children are coming out of a tree house or down the side of a hill.

Swinging

Locate the swings in an area that will not interfere with other equipment or activity.

The ground surface for the swings must be composed of a soft surface such as sand, pea-gravel, wood chips, grass or Elastocrete.

Sand Play

Sand is a material that is used extensively, but must be clean-washed construction sand.

Sand also has a maximum play value when moist or mixed with water.

Sand surface should be located on a well drained gravel base, either sunken or edged to contain the sand.

It is an excellent impact absorbing surface.

Water

Water adds considerable interest when added to sand play. Pools, fountains, playstreams, hand pumps or sprinklers are all very desirable to include in a playground design.

Hard Surfaces

Hard surfaces are necessary for wheeled vehicles, wagons, bicycles, wheelchairs, soap box vehicles, strollers and some forms of maintenance equipment.

The Playground Committee

The Newmarket Playground Committee agreed that the playground should:

(a) provide seating arranged to permit viewing of different play areas on the site.

(b) be large enough to accommodate a variety of different activites, yet not too spread out.

(c) be considered and designed as one whole site. Open spaces, pedestrian/vehicular routes, safety, and apparatus would be scaled to the children's environmental needs.

(d) follow the contour of the hills creating a nice flow thus making an interesting play site for the children.

(e) ensure that the site will be well used.

(g) provide pleasant surroundings for adults.

Through letters and phone calls, a survey was conducted in the Town of Newmarket to establish the various needs of the children who would be playing at the Playground of the Future.

The results of the survey indicated that there were approximately 400 children in the town and surrounding area who had a special need.

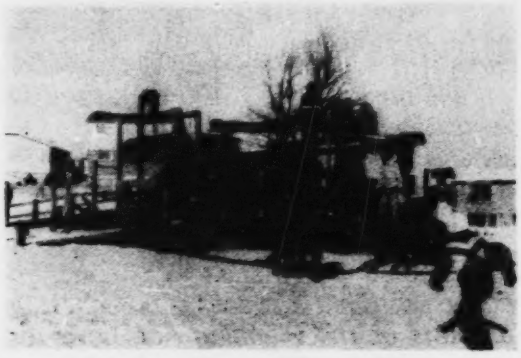
Mental retardation, and cerebral palsy were the two specific areas that were predominant in the survey.

The Board of Education, The Association for the Mentally Retarded, and various Recreational groups provided the majority of information.

The following are recommendations to consider when planning a playground and designing a play unit (specifically considering children as they grow from infancy to age 6):

- *Child's average height - 500-1200mm, (20"-46").*
- *Minimum Head Clearance - 1300mm, (50").*
- *Reach above their heads - 150-200mm, (6"-8").*
- *Seating heights (3-5 yrs.) - 300-350mm, (12"-14").*
- *Table height (3-5 yrs.) - 525-575mm, (21"-23").*
- *Average Weight - 5-23kg., (12-50 lbs.)*
- *Climbing height is suggested up to - 15'.*
- *Slides: Slope ratio - 1:1.*
- *Sand areas: deep enough for digging 450mm, (18").*
- *Mounds surfaced with grass should have a slope no more than 1:3 ratio to prevent erosion and facilitate mowing.*
- *Mounds in ridge form to separate play areas should be 600m - 2' plus.*

Recommendations By: The Corporation of Landscape William Rock Jr. - publication by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Play Spaces for Pre-schoolers for children between the age of infancy to age 6.



PLANNING

Excerpts from the Interim Official Plan of the Newmarket Planning Act.

Parks

The provision of parks is based on the system of Communities and Neighbourhoods as established in this section, and in general two aspects of parkland are considered in this Plan, that of active parks and that of PASSIVE open space. It is the objective of this Plan to provide parks and open space as indicated in the general location on Schedule "C" (which is a map of Newmarket) in accordance with the policies outlined in this Section.

It is recognized that it may not be practical or possible to meet the objectives in all parts of The Planning Act, however, consideration will be given to achieving these objectives in all new development or redevelopment.

The Town will take advantage of the provisions of The Planning Act to achieve these objectives, 5% parkland conveyance or cash-in-lieu, pursuant to Section 33 (5).

Active Parks

Active parks which are both neighbourhood and community parks and playgrounds are primarily to provide the public with active recreation facilities both indoor and outdoor, including children's swings and slides, ball diamonds, playing fields, swimming pools, skating rinks, arenas and adult facilities etc. Active parks may also contain passive open space. It is the intention of the Plan that a total of 10 acres of open space per 1000 people is provided, however, this policy may be considered as flexible provided that the principles of adequacy, accessibility and coverage are not widely varied.

Neighbourhood Parks-Playgrounds

Neighbourhood parks and playgrounds containing recreation facilities primarily for pre-school age and elementary school children shall be provided to serve each residential neighbourhood in accordance with the standard of 3.75 acres per 1000 persons. Neighbourhood parks and playgrounds should be located so as to minimize the crossing of major streets, and their service radius should generally not be greater than one-half mile. A minimum site area of 5 acres should be maintained where possible, although somewhat smaller sites are satisfactory if developed jointly with an elementary school site.

Playgrounds or tot-lots for the use of pre-school age children without the necessity of crossing major streets should be provided in local residential areas with particular concern for concentrations of medium or high density areas and for areas where parks facilities are limited in area or located at a considerable distance.

Community Parks and Playgrounds

Community parks and playgrounds containing a much broader range of facilities for organized games and sports primarily oriented to teenagers and adults shall be provided to serve each community and/or the municipality. The service radius should be not greater than one mile and a minimum site area of 15 acres should be maintained except in the case of special use facilities such as swimming pools, community centres or parks associated with secondary schools. Facilities should also include ball diamonds, football fields, major playing fields and skating rinks.

Passive open space

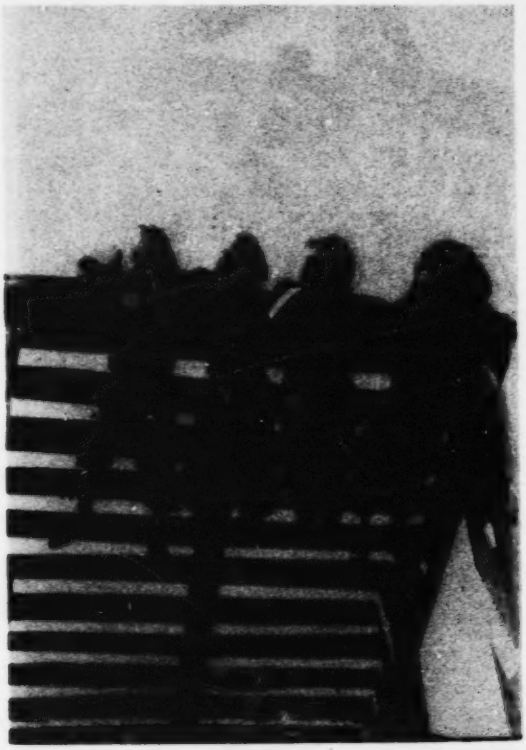
The Town will encourage the development of passive open space, comprising uses such as scenic parks, picnic areas, walking trails, botanical gardens, and conservation areas, along the Holland River Valley and tributary streams. Areas of environmental concern such as areas subject to flooding, subsidence, or steep slopes may also be included as passive open space, and it shall be the policy of the Town to acquire or encourage the acquisition of these lands by an appropriate public agency.

It is recognized that it may not be practical or possible to meet the above objectives in all parts of the Planning Act, however consideration will be given to achieving these objectives in all new developments.

In determining the amount of open space required for each neighbourhood or community, allowance shall be made for the amount of playground or playfield available or to be available in school sites, and where possible the common integration of school and park facilities shall be encouraged.

Where there is an existing deficiency of parks and recreation facilities and where the deficiency is difficult to remedy, passive open space may be provided until redevelopment can permit the parks to be brought up to standard.

The Playground Committee examined the Planning Act to acquire greater knowledge of the communities playground needs.



NATURAL MATERIALS

(1) **Snow and Ice**
Snow and ice when banked, make excellent temporary mounds for sliding. Flat areas may also be utilized in the winter by flooding and creating a skating rink.

(2) **Pea-Gravel**
Pea-Gravel is inexpensive to use, impact absorbing and requires little maintenance.

(3) **Rocks**
Rocks create varied landscapes as well as creating climbing elements.

(4) **Wood Chips**
Wood Chips are another excellent soft surface and are used quite extensively.

(5) **Trees**
Trees provide shade and enhance the appearance of the playsite, but when the branches are mature, provide an area to climb.

(6) **Grass**
Grass is one of the best surfaces to incorporate in most areas of any playground.

Privacy

All children enjoy an area to hide or imagine that they are in a fort. Enclosures and partitions may easily be incorporated into any design, thus providing the child with privacy.

Trees not only provide shade but also a natural privacy fence.

Land Moulding

Land moulding is a very necessary addition to any playground. Existing slopes and landforms should be utilized. This will add character, interest, and increase the visual variety of the playground.

Quiet Play or Rest Area

An adult seating area should be provided in any playground. If the adults have a comfortable area to sit and watch the children, the children may have a longer visit at the playground.

Passive landscaping, benches, trees, shrubs and tables should be arranged in this area.

It is important to separate the quiet area from the active and boisterous activity, and this can be done by incorporating an earth mound, hill or fence.

Storage

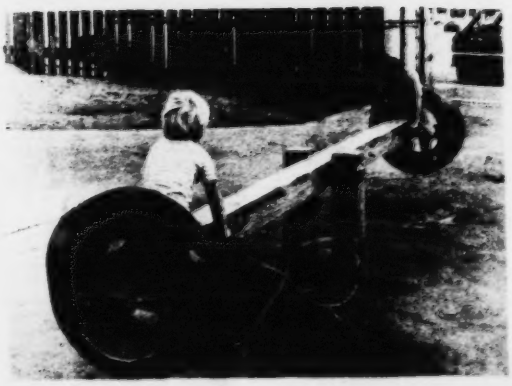
If components of the playground or any maintenance equipment must be stored, a storage area should be incorporated in the actual playground design.

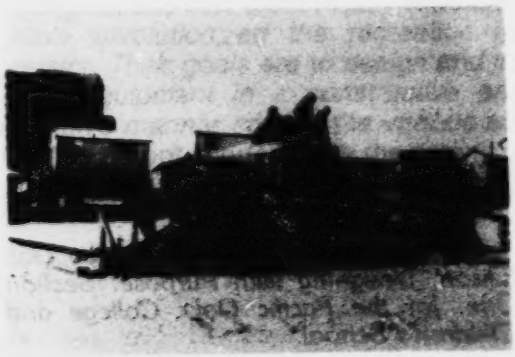
Things to Consider

The playground must be free from heavy traffic and accessible by a walking route.

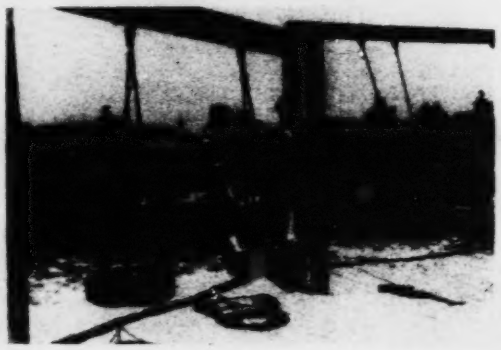
The playground should be in sight or hearing distance from dwellings.

The playground must be accessible for maintenance by standard equipment.





"Playgrounds should be developed according to the nature of the site." - Horst Henke.



THE QUALITIES OF THE PLAYSTRUCTURE

A properly designed playstructure can and will offer:

(1) Interesting Landscaping

(2) Choices: different routes to get up and down.

(3) Playmate Interaction: apparatus which many children may utilize at one time (e.g. slides, tire swings etc.)

(4) Creativity: areas where the children may use their imagination.

(5) Exercise: apparatus that will assist the development of muscle building and energy release.

(6) Change and Flexibility: the modular units may be changed in their position, relocated, or added to.

(7) Challenge: an opportunity for the child to develop judgment, and a feeling of pride which results in accomplishment.

(8) Durability: relative immunity to vandalism and breakage, as well as easy maintenance.

(9) Varying surfaces and textures: Sand, grass, wood, concrete, metal and rope.

These points were researched by Gail Ellison, Designing with Purpose: Section One, for the Pacific Oaks College and Children's School.

COMPONENTS

Landscape

Groups

One of the main difficulties confronting the planning of play facilities is that they are utilized by a number of distinct groups, each of which has requirements based upon their own needs. Once the priorities have been resolved in order of importance, it becomes quite obvious the format the play apparatus will undertake.

It has been a general practice that groups who are planning a playground installation do not consider the elements which enter into the framework, such as location, orientation, drainage, users, scale, equipment and aesthetics. The marrying of these components can only be accomplished by the preparation of a plan which will not only address these important functions, but will assist in evaluating the maximum potential use, offer the group a tool for fund raising, and develop an awareness for participation by the community.

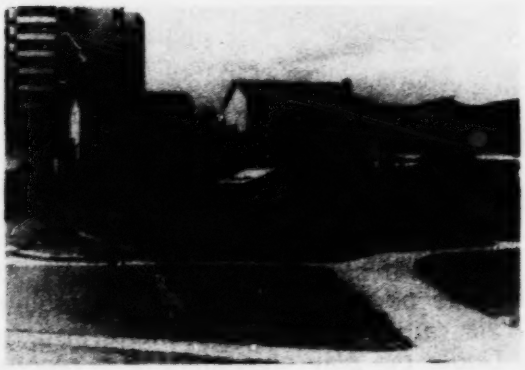
Playground Manufacturers

In recent years, playground manufacturers have been assigned the role of designer, and their creative play structures have revolutionized the recreation industry. Their goals are to design and install equipment in a constructive and creative manner so that the various activities do not interfere with the variety of users.

The Landscape Architect

Many local governments and public agencies in the last few years have discovered another professional, the Landscape Architect. Landscape architecture, a design profession incorporating physical, natural and social sciences, is concerned with the design and enhancement of man's surroundings and to resolve intelligent solutions between the needs of society and the outdoor elements to support them.

The Landscape Architects in Ontario are developing plans for self-regulatory status and at present the Ministry of the Attorney General is reviewing individual case studies of various professional groups. Visibility in the public eye and public interest have made the Landscape Architect play an important role in the community. There are approximately two hundred Landscape Architects registered as full members with the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects. Ontario has three schools of Landscape Architecture, i.e. University of Toronto, University of Guelph and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.



The role of the Landscape Architect *in planning a recreational playground is to investigate and gather inventory information such as the goals of the clientele, needs, age and type of user, location and access to the facilities in the community, public or private lands, availability of funding, and services such as sewers, washrooms, roads and walkways.*

With all of the above information gathered, the Landscape Architect investigates the ideal site location and endeavours to relate all criteria and prepares a conceptual plan. Contact with the playground equipment manufacturers will enable the Landscape Architect to integrate the proposed play structure into the land forms in order to achieve the following ultimate results.

Design

Children are intimately affected by every aspect of the design. They are seldom consulted and therefore it is important that their needs are met during the design of the facilities. Parents have a distinct interest and curiosity in their children's character development. Seating areas should be provided so that parents may relax, participate and supervise their children's play.

Drainage

From a technical aspect, it is important to have the play area drain properly. Investigation will discover if the site is serviced with storm and sanitary sewers. All areas beyond the activity area require 2% fall to catch basins and/or swales. Under the play equipment, it is recommended to install a weeping tile system draining to the storm sewer system. Subgrade will grade at 2% towards weeping tiles to provide positive drainage. A layer of twelve inch (12") Granular "A" will then be applied followed by a layer of six inches (6") minimum of either sand, wood bark, mulch or pea gravel. It has been our experience that the pea gravel has been successful in providing the most hygienic and clean surface for play.

Proper drainage is a must.

Functional

The play area should be functional and incorporate the following elements such as **(1)** *Access to vehicular traffic for parking and emergency vehicles.* **(2)** *Walkways for bicycles, carriages and other toys should be designed to provide direct access to the play apparatus.* **(3)** *Textures of the paved surfaces will encourage the users to satisfy their curiosity and develop their senses.* **(4)** *Seating areas will incorporate paving textures and create an atmosphere of relaxation. They shall be orientated away from the play activity but yet provide the parent a sense of participation and supervision.* **(5)** *Such elements as branches, bicycle stands, shade trees, refuse containers, screening from private property, will be geared to develop a community interaction. The orientation of the play structure and its relationship with other amenities in the park such as baseball diamonds, soccer field, tennis courts, track and field, jogging stations, should be fully investigated.*

Aesthetically, *it is very important to provide the play apparatus with a* **comfortable atmosphere** *where the users are shielded from the sun and wind by providing plant materials for year around effect. Such plant materials are encouraged to be planted in mass groupings to provide screening and prevent destruction.* **Berms** *(land forms) will provide a third dimension to the complex where the user will be provided access to the structure by ramps, bridges and paved surface.* **Grass slopes** *surrounding the equipment are recommended to be 1:3 slope in order to discourage bicycles, motorbikes and other vehicular traffic in the vicinity of the activity area.* **Textures of material** *within the play equipment itself provides seasonal play for the user.*

Vandalism *is a contributing detriment to the creative play structure and its surroundings. The playground manufacturers have been abreast and continuously monitor their systems in order to provide vandal proof equipment. Lighting is a great asset to a play structure in order to maintain a sense of order and safety in the community.*

Municipal Administration

Finally, the local administration have the responsibility to **supply and maintain the services and amenities of a playground.** *With a proper development plan, the groups planning a creative play structure will find the municipal administration very co-operative in providing personnel and be a resource centre providing and directing supplies of materials such as fill for berms, storm sewer services, lumber, plant materials. The municipal administration should also coordinate their recreation programs with the new playground. The above criteria cannot be all met in every playground, but they do represent goals in which existing and proposed facilities may be evaluated.*

"Children must play in an environment which provides them experience and they must have the opportunity to control that experience," - Gabriel D'Aoust.

The section pertaining to Landscape: Prepared by Gabriel D'Aoust

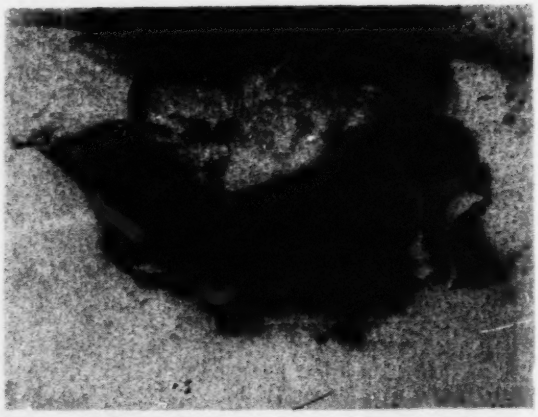
SAFETY

We must remember that very few children will attempt what they cannot achieve.

It is our responsibility to provide the safest play environment for our children while still providing challenge, risk and variety which are all necessary while children are playing.

Based on available data, less than 2% of all children's accidents take place on playground equipment. Accidents seem to be an even split between private and public settings. (Provided that the equipment is well constructed and of a high quality). For example, many accidents are caused by children pushing other children or just simply not being careful or not using the equipment in ways for which it was intended and designed.

Injuries associated with swinging elements have become lower perhaps as a result of an increased number of rubber belt seats.



Playgrounds should be enjoyed by Children all year, and not be a seasonal facility that stores the equipment during the winter months, limiting their play to spring, summer and fall.

There does not seem to be evidence that accidents increase during winter months. Many communities however, discourage winter use of the playgrounds because of a belief that winter means increased danger.

There are two main goals in any safety program.

(1) Eliminate serious accidents (e.g. skull fractures, concussions, etc.)

(2) Minimize Minor Injuries (e.g. broken bones, abrasions, lacerations, punctures). (1)

Five ways suggested in meeting these goals are:

(1) Eliminate obvious sources of danger (e.g. sharp edges, protrusions, hard surface material).

(2) Construct equipment from safe, durable materials.

(3) Install and maintain the equipment properly.

(4) Educate children about safety and supervise them when necessary.

(5) Adopt performance standards which apply to playground equipment, based on potential hazards. (2).

(1) & (2) Safety in Children's Formal Play Environments: Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

SAFETY

Modern creative playgrounds have maintained a commendable safety record. A well designed playground has a number of different areas and activities designed for all ages of children. The challenges are graduated and the child is given the opportunity to move from one element to another at a pace determined by his muscular development and co-ordination.

The child is not compelled, as in the traditional playground, to mold their activities to an inflexible pattern or to cope with a static superstructure of ironwork designed to accommodate the mythical average child. The environment in a creative playground is typically one of wood structures underlain by soft surfaces as opposed to the iron, concrete and asphalt of the traditional playground.

All potential danger sources should be eliminated at the planning or construction stage. All areas of the proposed playground should be examined to eliminate sharp edges. This usually entails bevelling wood edges in key areas with a wood plane or sanding block. The ends of all metal pipes should be imbedded in wood; however, if this is not feasible they should be capped with a permanent rubber end piece.

Nails should be long enough to grip firmly, but not so long as to protrude on back surfaces. If long nails must be used, thoroughly crimp the points into the wood. Use galvanized nails to prevent rust and always countersink the nail heads so that they do not catch on skin or clothing.

Bolts should also be kept as short as possible and be recessed on outer or contact surfaces. Be especially cautious of long bolts at head height or in dark areas. Trim all bolts flush with the nut using a hack saw and file smooth.

All bolts should be examined periodically and tightened if necessary, checking for nails that have worked out of the wood will eliminate many small injuries.

Moving parts should be designed to prevent children from thrusting fingers into the works.

All materials used in construction should be critically examined for various hazards such as splinters of wood, burrs on metal pipe, sharp edges on sheet metal, etc.

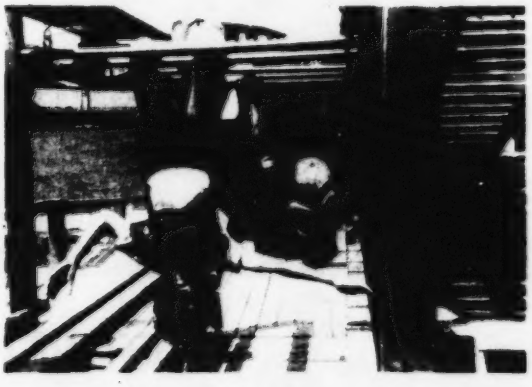
Maintenance checks should be made to reveal weak or fractured boards and faulty hardware. Repair and replacement should be made as soon as possible.

Dynamic play equipment should be thoroughly considered for the full range of possible movement and conflict. For example the bottom of slides should be kept well away from curbs and other objects and swings should have adequate space to move sideways as well as forward and backward.

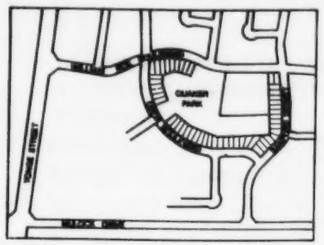
Exercise caution in the use of wood treatments such as creosote. Avoid planting shrubs and thorns. Be cautious with pesticides and fertilizers and avoid the use of toxic plants.

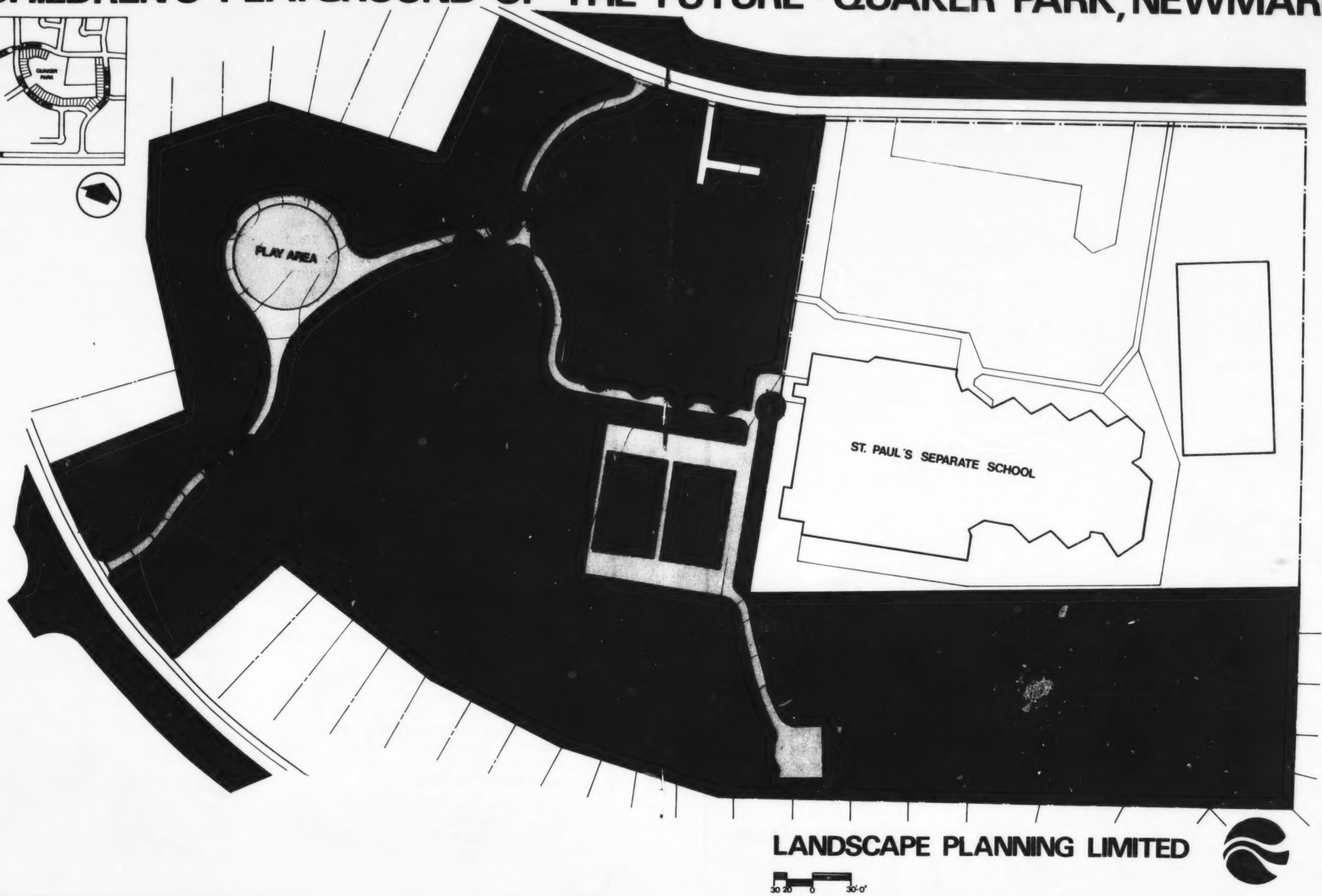
Finally, in the case of emergency, post pertinent phone numbers and sources of help in a prominent location.

This information researched by Paul Chu and Alex Topps. A Guide to Creative Playground Development, Ministry of Culture and Recreation - 1977.

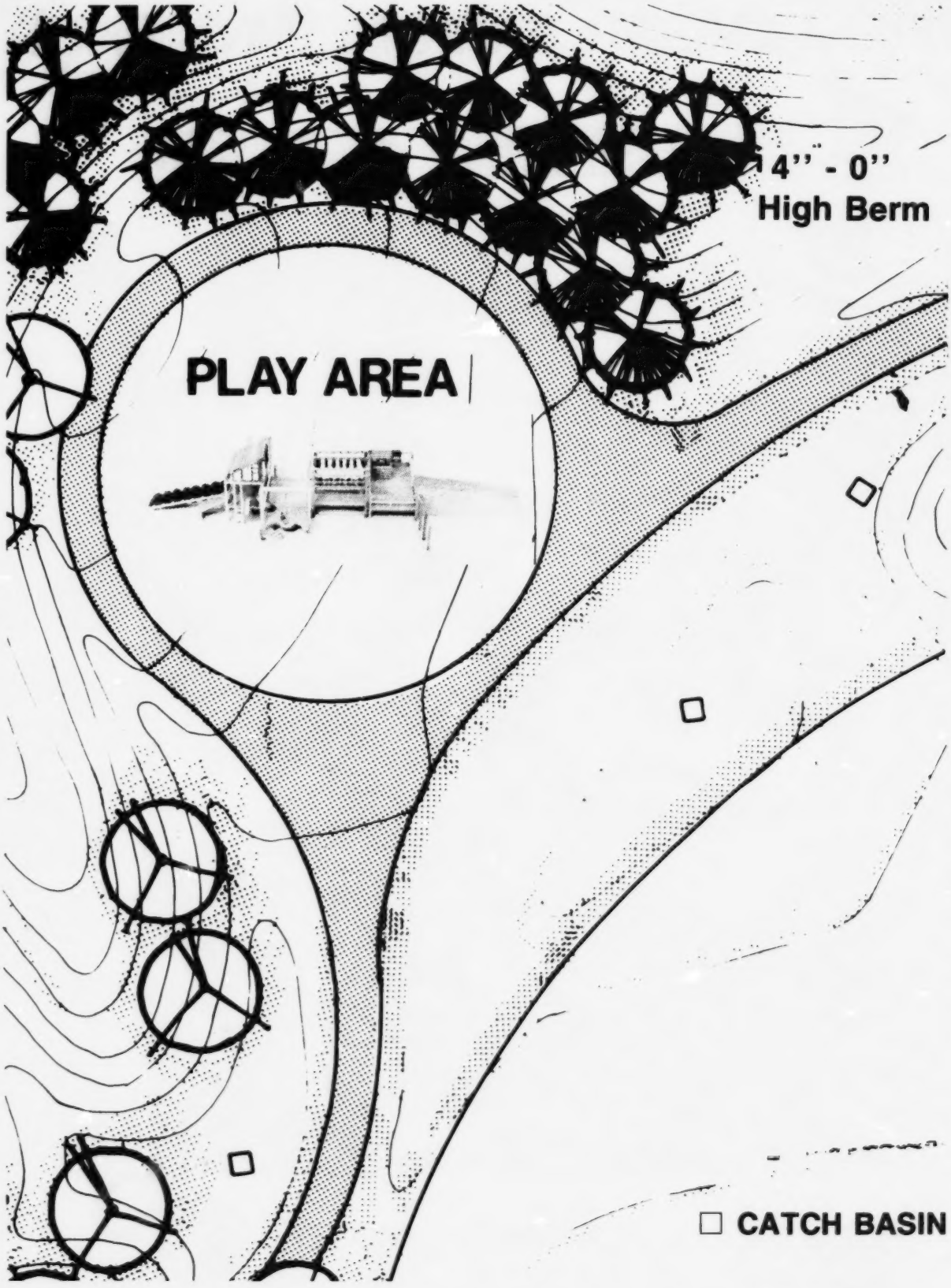


A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND OF THE FUTURE : QUAKER PARK, NEWMARKET





LANDSCAPE PLANNING LIMITED


4'' - 0''
High Berm
PLAY AREA
CATCH BASIN

SAFETY

Dr. Joseph Levy, Associate Professor, Department of Recreation, University of Waterloo, recently outlined several playground equipment dangers. (Specifically relating to residential home playground sets).
Consider these points when designing your community playground.

(1) **Pinch-crush parts:** *Moving parts, particularly on gliders and see-saws, can pinch or crush fingers.*

(2) **Sharp Edges:** *Some playgrounds have sharp edges or points where the parts fit together.*

(3) **Exposed screws and bolts:** *Most playgrounds include protective caps to cover screws and bolts.*

(4) **"S" hooks:** *Open-ended hooks especially the "S" hooks on swings which can catch skin or clothes, should be avoided. If a set has such hooks, pinch the ends in tightly with a pair of pliers.*

(5) **Rings:** *Swinging exercise rings with a diameter between 4-7 inches can entrap a child's head. Remove such rings and discard them where children will not find and play with them.*

(6) **Hard, heavy swing sets:** *can strike a dangerous blow. Choose a set with lightweight seats or purchase such seats separately and replace the hard sets. (Metal seats should have smooth, rolled edges).*

(7) **Inadequate spacing:** *Install the set a minimum of six feet away from fences, buildings, and walks, walkways and other play areas such as sandboxes.*

(8) **Improper anchoring:** *Legs can be set in concrete for stability. All types of anchoring devices should be placed below ground level to avoid a tripping hazard.*

(9) **Hard Surfaces:** *Do not install the set over hard surfaces such as concrete, brick, blacktop or cinders. Grass or sand is recommended.*

The following safety points are recommendations from a report which was prepared for the Creative Play Committee of the Ontario Recreation Society and for the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation Toronto, 1976.

(1) **Continuous Closed Surfaces:** *such as platforms & ramps, that are* **less** *than 2 square feet in surface area shall withstand a static load of at least 300 pounds.*
Continuous closed surfaces that are **greater** *than 2 sqaure feet in surface area, shall withstand a static load of at least 150 pounds per square foot.*

(2) **Horizontal:** *equipment shall withstand vertical static load of 300 pounds per running foot when tested individually, or 200 pounds per running foot when tested in combined loading.*

(3) **Lateral:** *equipment shall withstand a horizontal force of 100 pounds per running foot.*

(4) **Suspension:** *supports and suspension members shall withstand 300 pounds per each anticipated unit of usage for multiple occupancy. Single occupancy units shall withstand 600 pounds loading.*

(5) **Connecting Devices:** *(lock-washers, self-locking nuts or other locking means) shall be such that they can not be disconnected with a 15 pound force.*

(6) **Suspension Hooks:** *should be closed and not seperable with the application of 300 pounds per user. (An open hook is defined as one which will allow a 1/16 inch shim to penetrate its interior.)*

(7) **Protruding Bolts:** *exposed ends of accessible threaded bolts shall not exceed 1/2 of the diameter of the bolt. All bolts less than 1 1/2 inches in diameter, shall not extend more than 1/4 inch maximum.*

• *these safety points were considered in the design of the Newmarket Playground of the Future.*

TAMPER-PROOF NUT

NO PROTRUDING HARDWARE

This safety hardware was incorporated in the construction of the Newmarket Playground of the Future.

(8) **Suspended elements:** *shall have a minimum clearance of 18 inches between the outside edge of the element and another element as measured horizontally at any seat level.*

(9) **Slide Incline and Exit:** *The exit end of the slide bed should be at least 12 inches and no greater than 16 inches from ground level. The end of the exit surface should be designed to be parallel (or 4 degrees) to the ground. The slide bed should be twice as long as its height. (Slides whose maximum height is less than 4 feet are exempt from this requirement.)*

(10) **Entrapment:** *The equipment should contain no openings either enclosed or formed by adjacent elements that can trap the user's head.*
Openings within 18 inches of the ground or other surfaces which provide the same opportunity for supporting the body and limbs, under all conditions and in all directions, are exempt from this requirement.

(11) **Hand Gripping Surfaces:** *Equipment such as horizontal ladders, arch climbers, and cable slings, shall be at least 3/4 inches and not more than 1 inch in diameter or minimum or maximum dimension (1).*

(1) Safety in children's formal play environments: by Paul F. Wilkinson, Ph.D. of Paul F. Wilkinson and Associates, Toronto and the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University and Robert Lockhart, M.E.S. of Balmer, Crapo and Associates, Inc.

HAZARDS TO BE AVOIDED IN A PLAYGROUND

(1) Improper installation.

(2) Improper maintenance.

(3) Improper design/construction.

(4) Improper scale of equipment for the child who will be using the apparatus.

(5) Improper material for design and function of unit.

(6) Changing in the properties of the material (e.g. splintering, or slipperiness.)

The tire provides a back rest and protection when the teeter totter contacts the ground. The tire absorbs the jolt not the child.

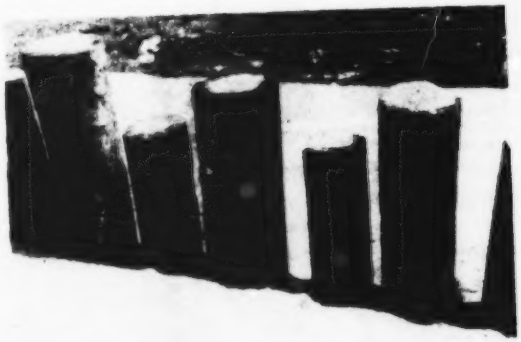
REMEMBER - DO NOT

(1) Do not run a slide plank into a sand play area.

(2) Do not place circular moving swings next to straight moving swings. There should be a separation.

(3) Swings should not be placed hanging from a climbing frame in the middle of an active area.

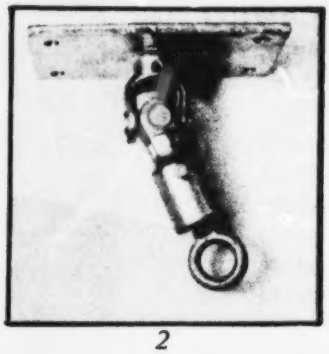
(4) Do not install one massive single structure in a large sand area. Some activities should be spread out (e.g. swings, teeter-totters).



Example: Telephone poles often act as a retaining wall, separating different surfaces and textures. Improper spacing may result in a serious leg injury. A foot may easily become trapped between poles, twist and possibly break.

SAFE HARDWARE

1



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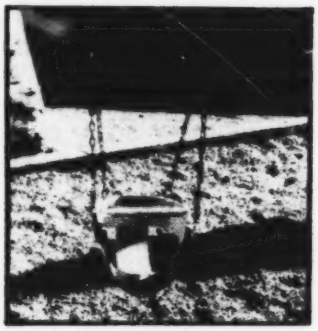

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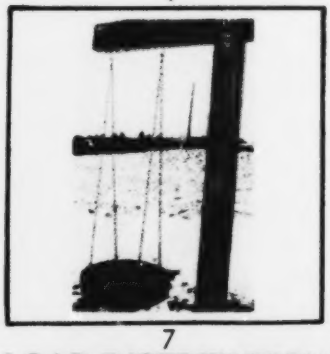
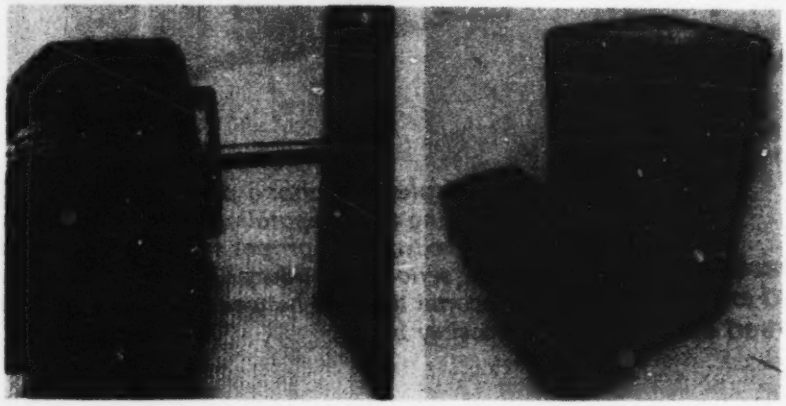


7

1. *Bearing hanger for swings "S" hook*
2. *Heavy duty swivel for tire swings*
3. *Galvinized chain*
4. *Tire swing assembly (swivel, chains, tire) chains 4'6" long each to suit 7'6" high crossbeam)*
5. *Belt seat*
6. *Baby seat*
7. *Tire seat (not rotating). (Chains for 7'6" high crossbeam).*

LOAD DISTRIBUTION THROUGH SPECIALIZED HARDWARE

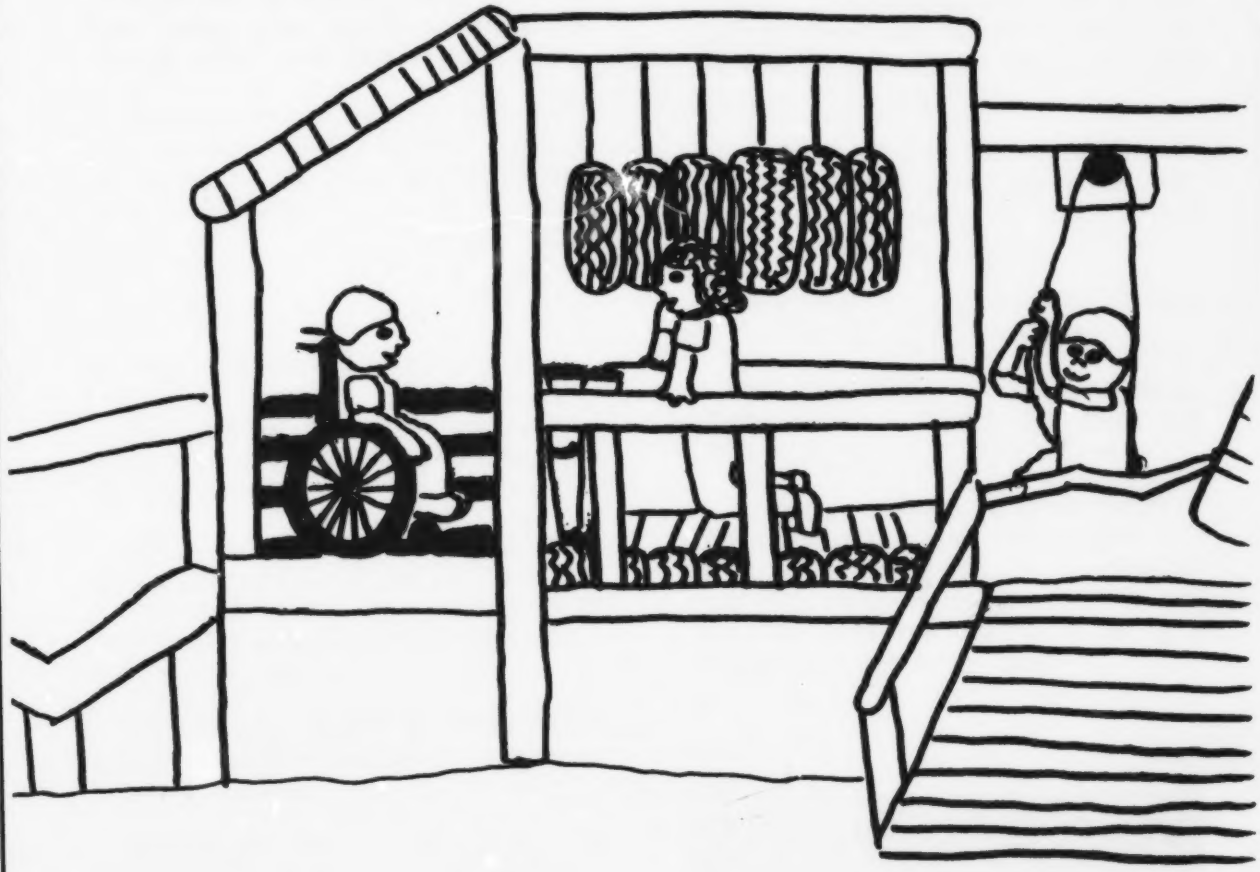


The problem with many wood structures is the loosening of the metal fasteners between uprights and platforms as result of the exertion of weight on the bolts. Loosening platforms invite vandalism and pose a danger to children.

To counteract this, platforms should be carried by a specialized piece of hardwood ("load distributor") and not simply by bolts.

The load distributor is inserted into a groove between platform and each upright and bears the platform load. It destributes the weight of the platform and of the playing children over a larger surface area. The function of the bolt is thus reduced to holding upright and platforms together, without carrying any weight.

CHAPTER THREE



Wendy Reid
Age 11
Newmarket

TYPES OF PLAYGROUNDS

There are three basic types of playgrounds.

1. The Traditional Playground

The traditional design is usually a flat, grassed area with some asphalt on a site with static play equipment such as swings, slides and teeter-totters.

The equipment is manipulated in a certain pre-planned manner and is characterized by metal apparatus with limited functions.

2. The Creative Playground

This type of play area encourages greater use of imagination and stimulates creative play.

The creative playground is a more natural play setting with most of the equipment constructed from timber, and basically designed and created from natural materials.

The creative design is manipulative equipment with moveable parts such as hoists and pullies.

Children are able to move, change, rearrange and create new play settings.

Water and sand are used extensively.

The playground offers a greater choice and many more alternatives by means of a more "abstract" design.

Creative Playgrounds are referred to as an adult made playground for children. The Newmarket playground is a combination of a creative playground and its own unique design.

3. Adventure Playgrounds

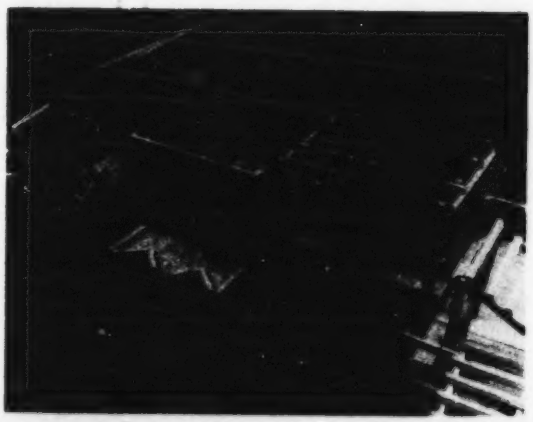
Building materials such as scrap lumber, old telephone poles, rope, old car tires etc., along with hammers, nails, saws and gardening tools, create new and exciting settings daily.

Children, under the direction or guidance of a play leader, experiment with earth, water, wood and fire, and see what they can really do.

The adventure playground also appeals to children 10 to 16 years of age.

The play leader offers leadership, stimulates and guides, but does not dominate.

In this type of setting, children are given the opportunity to take part in a variety of self directed activities such as constructing forts, using materials and tools, and working with the elements. It is a playground built by children.



THE PLAYGROUND OF THE FUTURE

THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND OF THE FUTURE

HOW WE DID IT IN NEWMARKET

Official Sod Turning:
Mayor R. Twinney, Recreation Commissioner Dan Shannon, and Centennial Co-ordinator, and Playground Chairman Diane Humeniuk, performed the Ceremony during the Centennial Celebrations and Children's Day.

Bill Andrews, Assistant Recreation Commissioner and Gabriel D'Aoust, Landscape Architect also participated in the co-ordination of the land preparation.

Newmarket Council and the Recreation Department had chosen the site of this unique playground, and now the land had to be prepared. A Landscape Architect, Gabriel D'Aoust donated his professional services to draft the preliminary survey. The committee realized that a tremendous amount of land fill was necessary.

A developer, who was digging foundations for a new subdivision in Town was approached, and asked if they would dump their CLEAN FILL at the playground site.

Over 800 truck loads of fill arrived, and the flat poorly drained piece of land was taking shape.

The park was then graded, covered with top soil, and seeded. Sod was used around the drain basin (40 square feet for each basin) since seed could easily be washed away in this area.

Areas were roped off, and the seed began to root.

Fill, grading and seeding were completed in the summer months, but the actual playground unit was constructed in the late fall and early winter months.

The grass had an opportunity to root well, and any heavy equipment that was necessary on the site was driven in and out via the same route. (Unfortunately, the weather did not co-operate fully, and the construction crew worked in very muddy conditions.

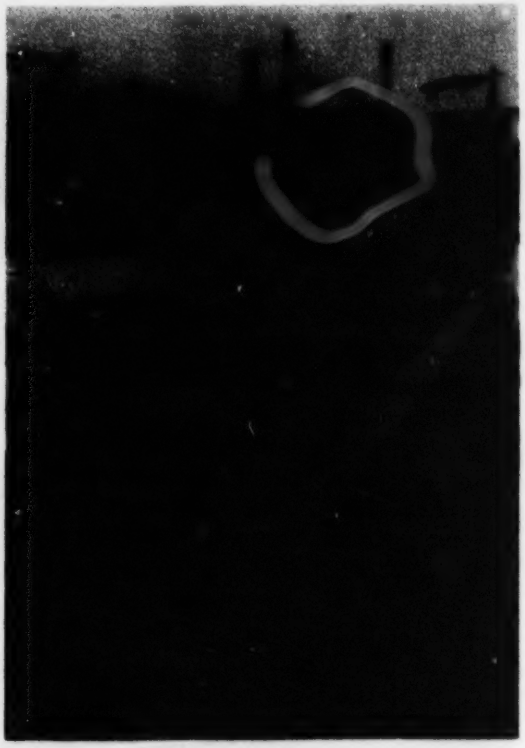
The Construction of the playground

The actual construction of the playsite was co-ordinated by the supplier of the equipment.

Members of this construction crew had the professional expertise to assemble the unit swiftly and safely.

Lumber should be delivered and stored in a convenient area, on the actual playground site.

Unless the play unit is built on the same day that the supplies are delivered, it is very possible that many pieces of wood and/or equipment may disappear in the night. (This seems to be a common vandalism problem).



THE LUMBER

The unit is constructed of pressure treated pine with a guarantee of twenty-five years.

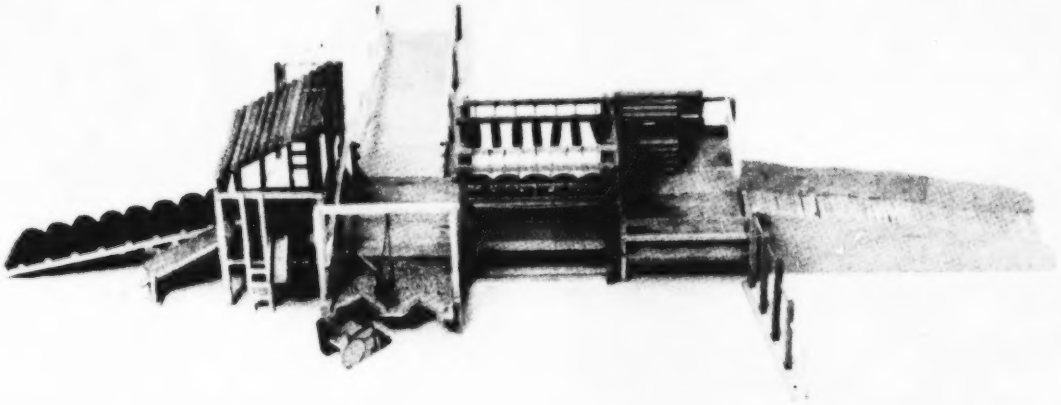
The technique used to treat the lumber consists of placing the wood in a cylinder filled with a water base wood preservative. The tank is then pressurized thus forcing the preservative solution into the lumber. The wood is kiln dried and sits for approximately two weeks. This treatment complies with the CSA specifications.

There are also several other techniques used in the treatment of wood, but this is one of the most popular.

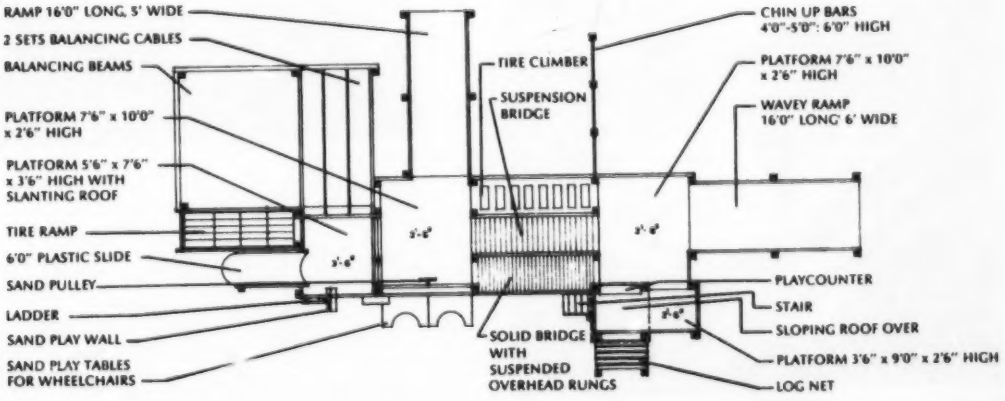
NEWMARKET

A STRUCTURE FOR ALL CHILDREN

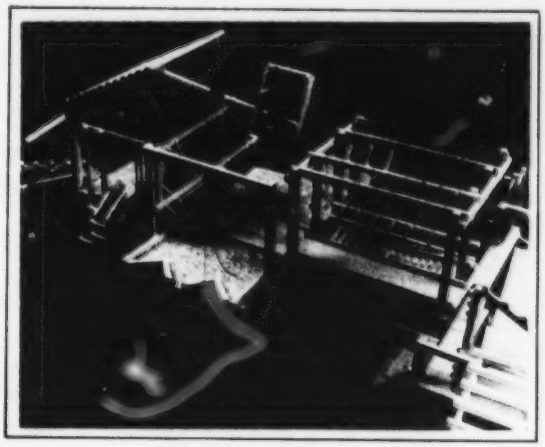
- 4 - 11 YEARS
- 60 - 90 CHILDREN
- PLATFORM AREA 322 SQ. FT.
- GROUND SPACE 60' x 36'

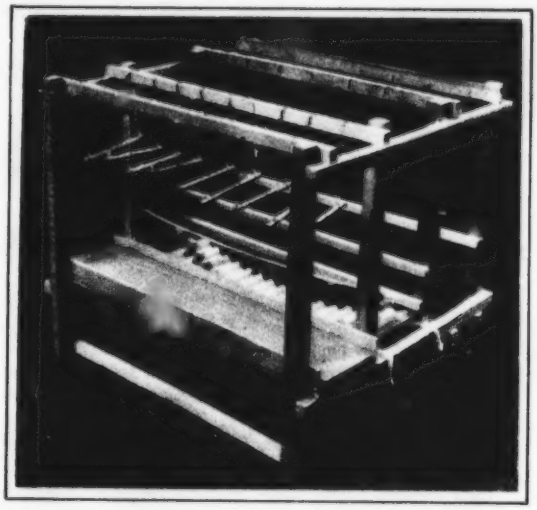


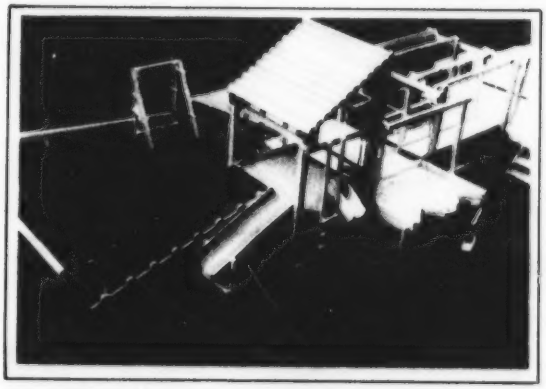
A unique structure to foster play between handicapped and non-handicapped children. Ramps are built at an angle of 1:12; the waves in one of the ramps add excitement for wheelchairs and tricycles, the triple bridge system features one solid bridge with overhead rungs to allow a child in a wheelchair to pull himself across; ambulatory children will use the suspended rungs as a hand-over-hand ladder. The suspension bridge is built for use by children in wheelchairs; tire climber and tire bridge are used by non-handicapped children. The accessible sand play tables for wheelchairs receives its sand from the pulley system on the adjacent construction climber. The playhouse is accessible for wheelchairs.

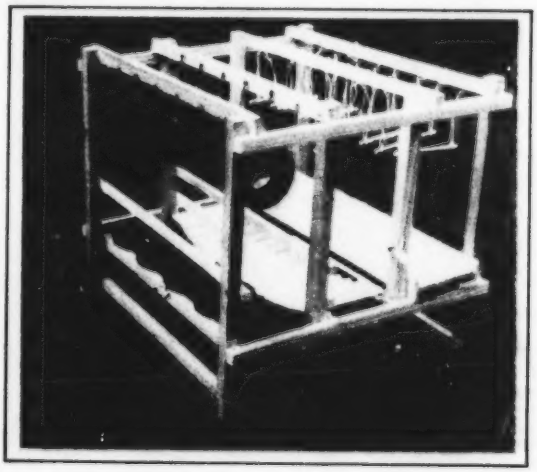

RAMP 16'0" LONG, 5' WIDE
2 SETS BALANCING CABLES
BALANCING BEAMS
PLATFORM 7'6" x 10'0" x 2'6" HIGH
PLATFORM 5'6" x 7'6" x 3'6" HIGH WITH SLANTING ROOF
TIRE RAMP
6'0" PLASTIC SLIDE
SAND PULLEY
LADDER
SAND PLAY WALL
SAND PLAY TABLES FOR WHEELCHAIRS
TIRE CLIMBER
SUSPENSION BRIDGE
SOLID BRIDGE WITH SUSPENDED OVERHEAD RUNGS
CHIN UP BARS 4'0"-5'0": 6'0" HIGH
PLATFORM 7'6" x 10'0" x 2'6" HIGH
WAVEY RAMP 16'0" LONG 6' WIDE
PLAYCOUNTER
STAIR
SLOPING ROOF OVER
PLATFORM 3'6" x 9'0" x 2'6" HIGH
LOG NET

The Children's Playground of the Future









Ramps

Ramps were incorporated into the playground to facilitate wheelchairs, as well as any child to run up or down.

Ramp "A" has a wave contour to provide a change for those in a wheelchair.

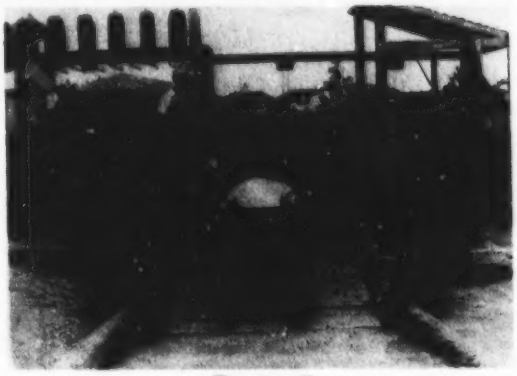
Ramp "B" is just a straight ramp design.

The ratio of both these ramps is 1:12.

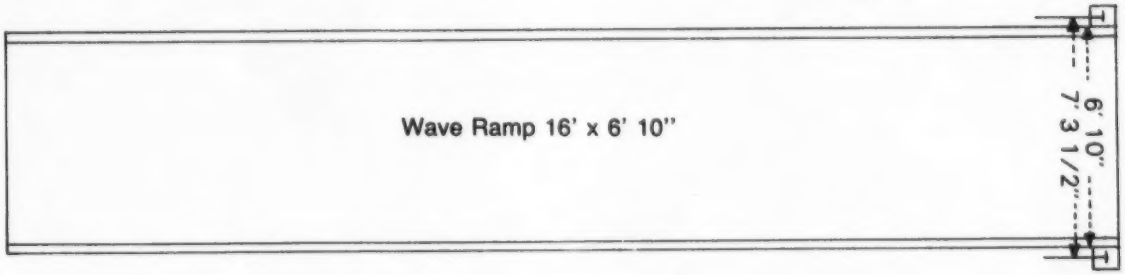
Ramps provide an entrance and exit from the play unit, and are located at opposite ends of the structure.

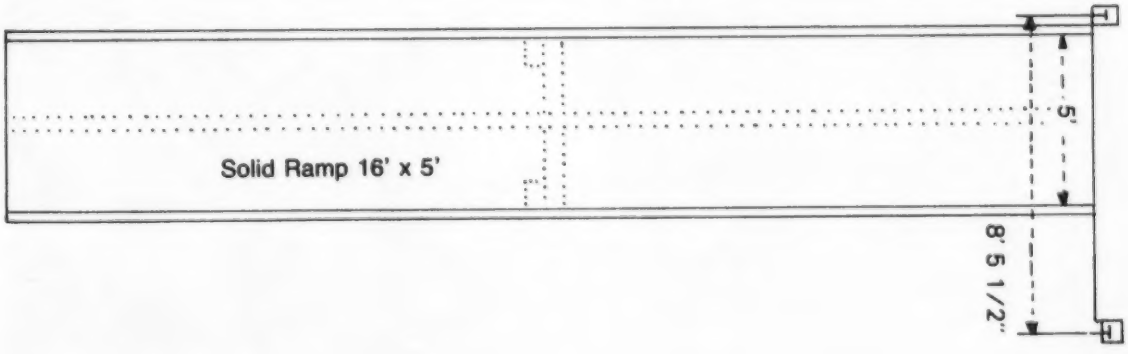
The ramps are also equipped with hand rails.

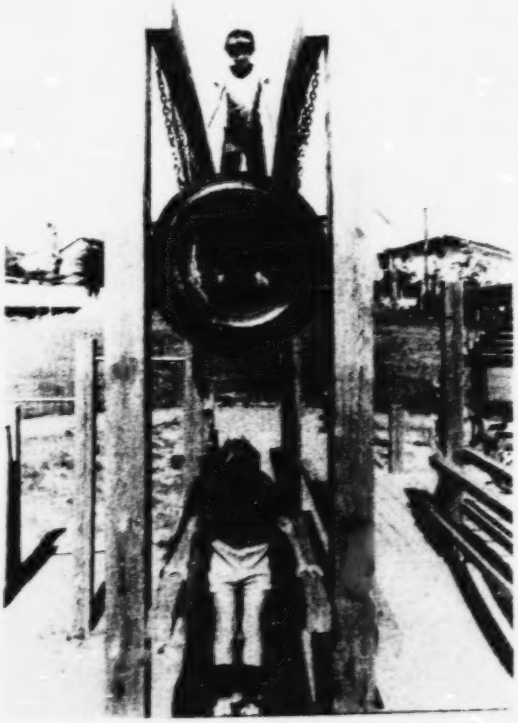
Ramp A



Ramp B







TIRES

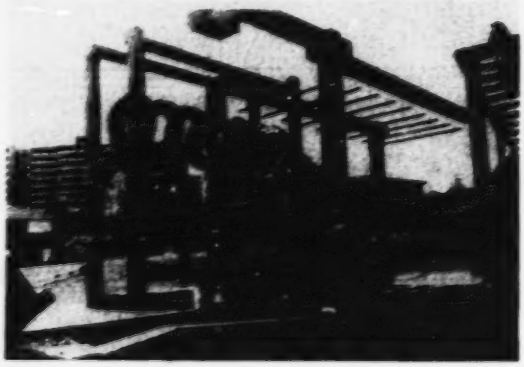
Tires play an important part in the design of the Newmarket playground providing a variety of uses.

Children enjoy the challenge of trying to crawl through the suspended tires.

Others like to swing from tire to tire to see if they will be able to swing from the first tire to the seventh tire successfully.

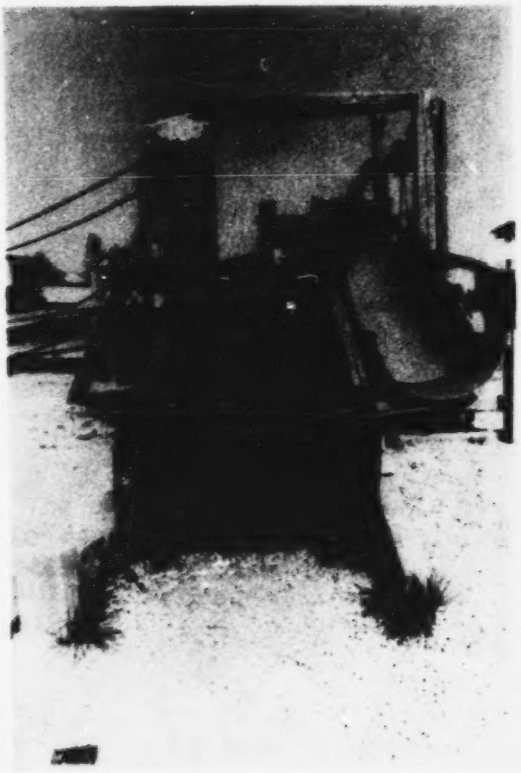
The floor of the central playground unit consists of tires providing a flexible and bouncing sensation as the children play, crossing from one side to the other.

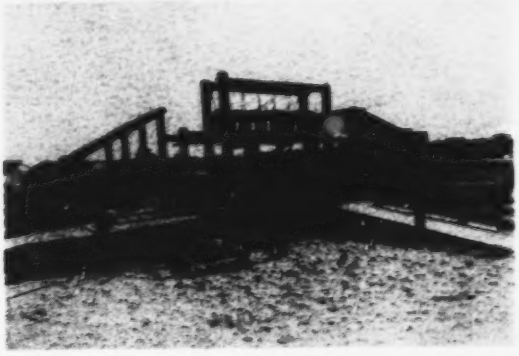
The tire swings are suited for a child with a co-ordination problem who may have trouble in timing the pumping movement to swing. They are not limited to moving in a back and forth motion such as on the standard swing, but may twirl, or move side to side.

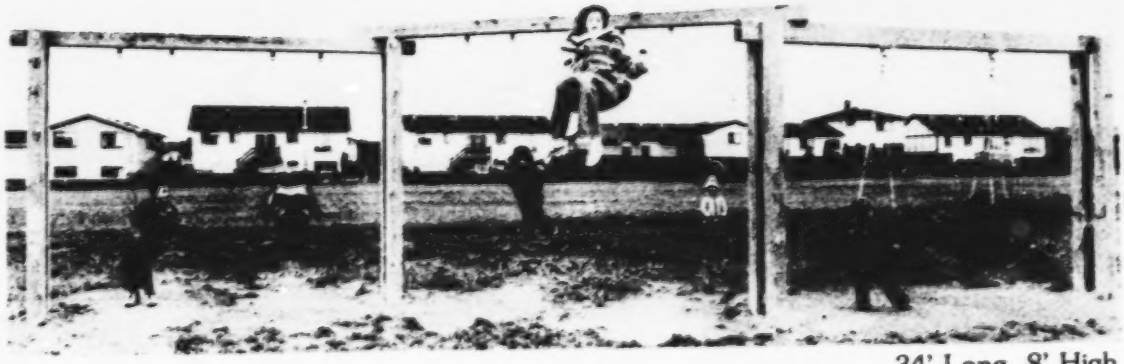


Tires were used in a climbing devise. Rows of 6 tires wide and 6 tires high, were pushed tightly together and mounted on cross beams to form a gradual slope.

A quarter of a rubber tire was converted to a type of pail. This tire section was then attached to a chain and hoist or pully system. The children fill the tire with sand at ground level, and by pulling up on the chain, lift the sand to an elevated sand table. Sand may also be emptied down a wooden chute, sending the sand back to the ground or elevated sand table.







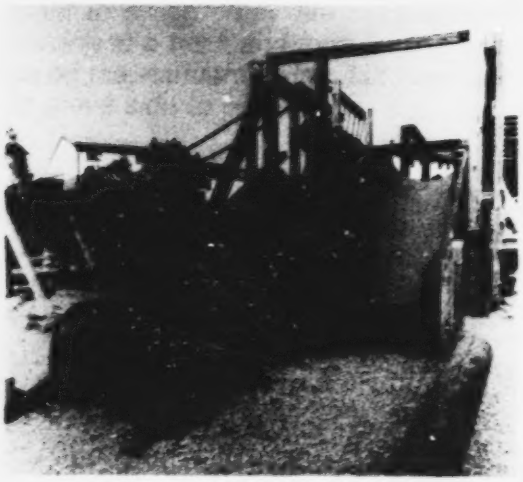
34' Long, 8' High

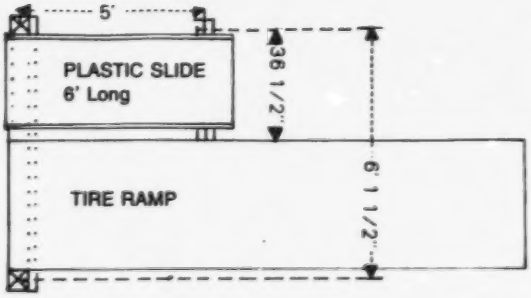
THE SLIDE

You must consider the placement of a slide in relation to the activity on a play unit, the surface in the area under the slide, and the ages of the children who will be using it.

The slide selected for the Newmarket playground was primarily for the younger children. The slide is 6' in length and 26 1/2'' in width.

After the child slides down the unit, he or she is almost slowed to a stop on a slide extension. This prevents the child from travelling down the slide in a sitting position, dropping to the ground, and possibly injuring themselves.





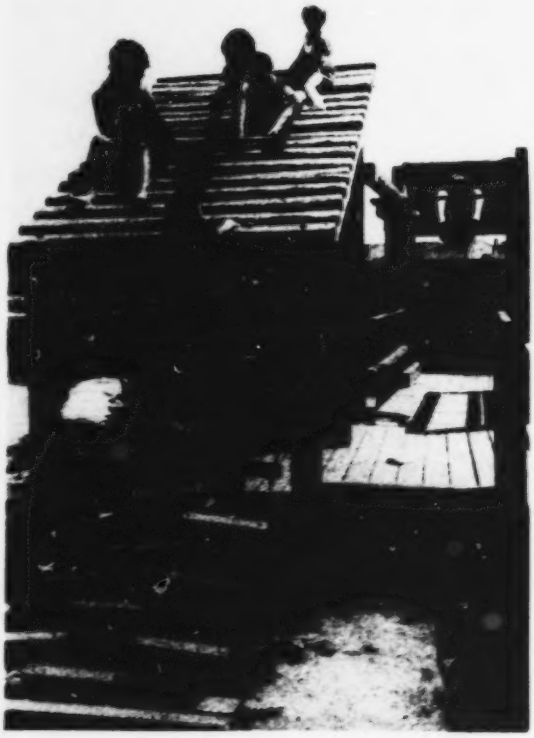
THE "STORE FRONT"

PLAY AREA

The "Store Front" section of the play unit has been very popular in the Newmarket model.

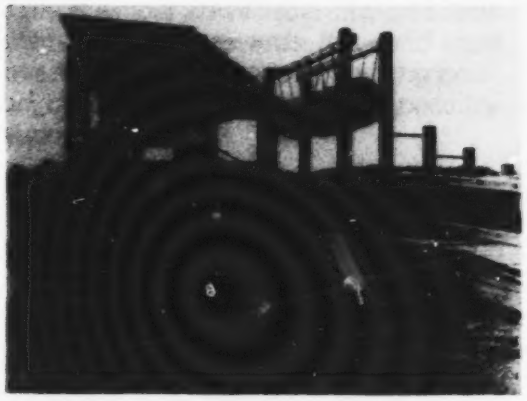
This section provides an area for children to act out imaginary situations such as shopping, a puppet show, a story or play, or climbing on many parts of this unit.

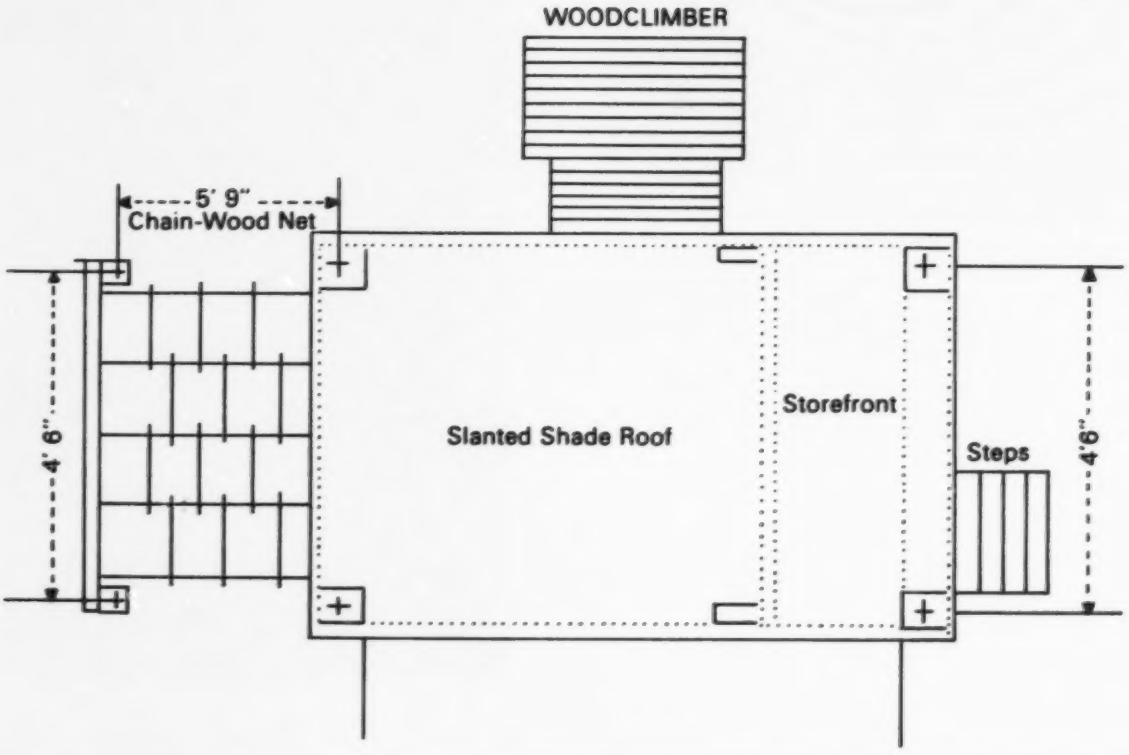
The roof provides privacy, giving a "fort like" effect as well as providing shade and another elevated climbing area.



A chain and wood net, and additional wooden climber are attached to the back and side of the store front unit.

Many children are able to use this modular unit at one time, and each is involved in a different activity. The roof provides interest for the child of 8 to 10 years old, while the wood and chain climber appeals to the younger child. The inside of the store front is enjoyed by all ages.





Sand Chute

Elevated Sand Table

THE ELEVATED SAND PLAY TABLE

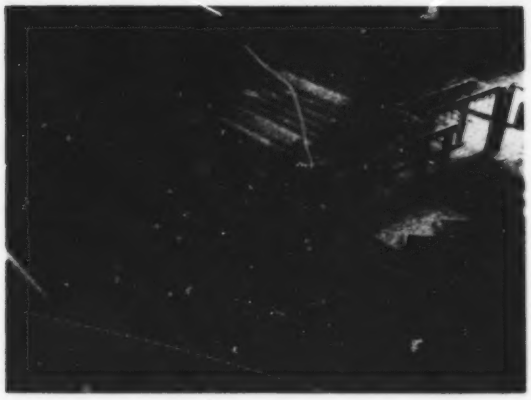
The key to the design of a playground is to facilitate the needs of all children.

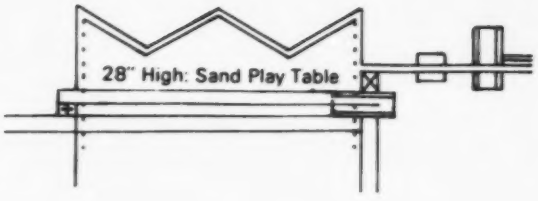
By including an elevated sand play table, the Newmarket model has provided an area which is accessible to a child in a wheelchair.

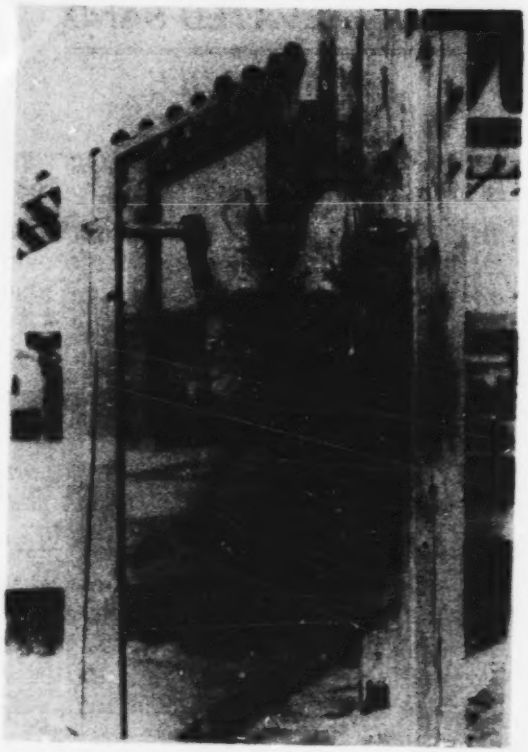
The surface below the table area is firm to hard, so that the wheelchair may easily be directed to the sand table.

A pully system consisting of a tire and chain is also incorporated into this unit, and is easily handled by all children.

Located beside the sand table is another unit with an elevated platform. Here children fill tires with sand, hoist to the platform, and empty the sand down a chute to the sand table below.





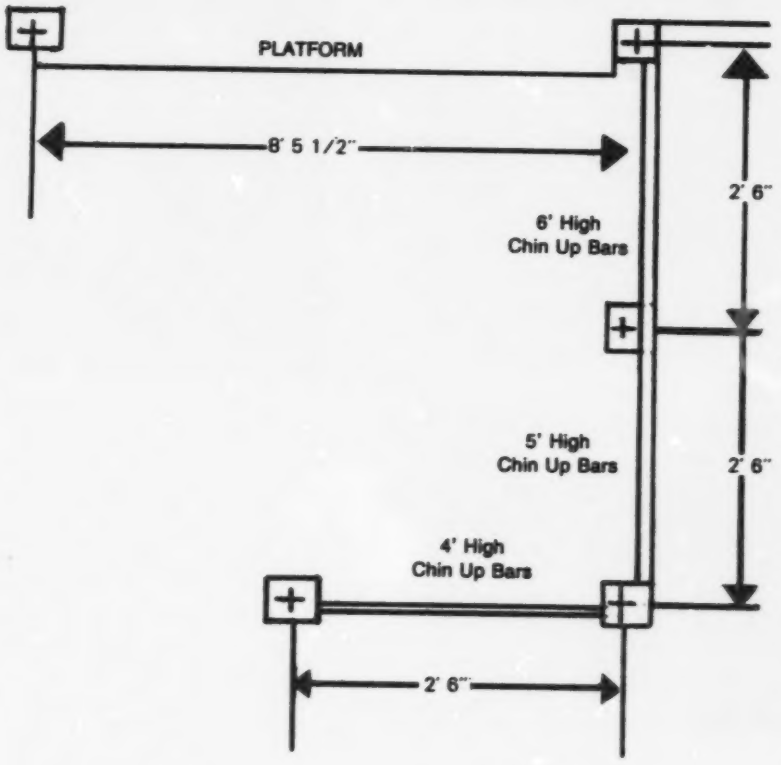


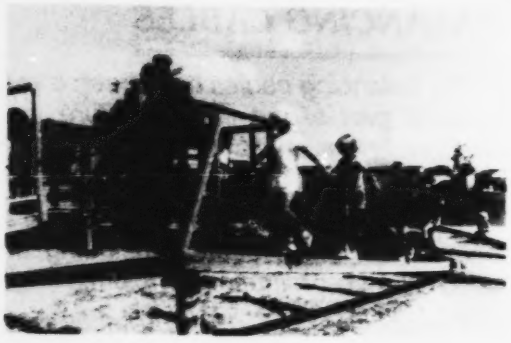
CHIN UP BARS

Chin up Bars are very popular for children between the ages of 6 - 12 years old.

Three levels of bars were installed, and the bar unit was located in a quiet section of the play structure.

The surface in this area is sand.





BALANCING BEAMS

A balancing beam not only provides the challenges of walking along the beam without losing your balance, but it also provides an area for the children to sit.

Children with a co-ordination problem have found this addition to the playground very challenging and most enjoyable.

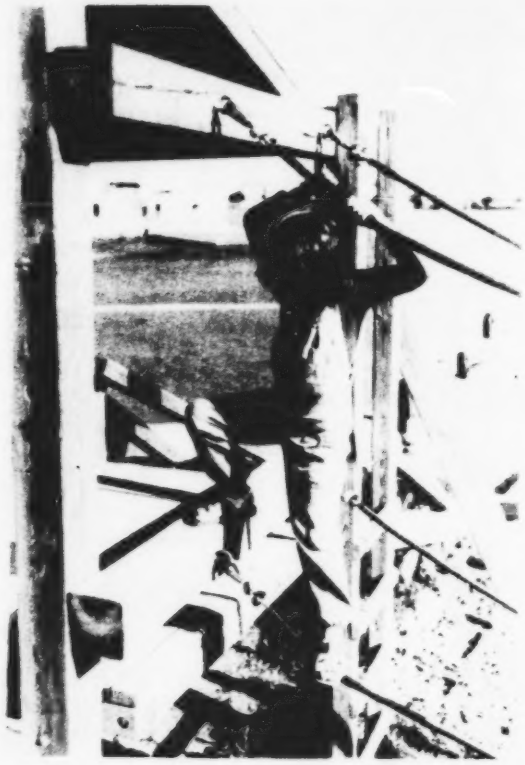
The beam seems to attract children between the ages of 2 to 8.

The surface under the beam is sand.

THE HANGING PARALLEL BARS

Children like to swing from one bar to another successfully, and going from one side of the playunit to the other certainly fulfills a challenge.

These bars are used most often by the 6-12 year old children.



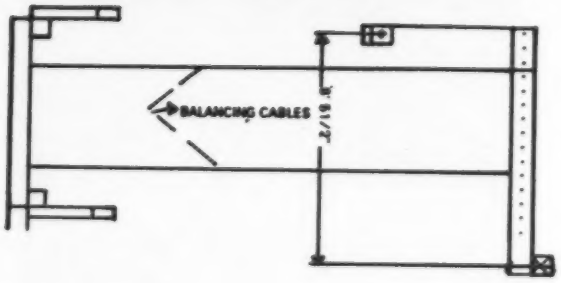
BALANCING CABLES

The balancing cables have been a very popular part of the play structure, and children find a multitude of ways to use the cables.

Children enjoy the freedom of trying to balance on these cables, including the child with co-ordination problem.

The cable is coated in a protective rubberized casing and therefore is safe for the children even in the winter. It is also an excellent gripping material.

The surface below the cables is sand.



CHAPTER FOUR

Wendy Reid
Age 11
Newmarket

FUND RAISING

Fund raising is a necessary part of many community projects. Without these projects, schools may not have special athletic equipment, libraries may not expand or hospitals acquire their specialized equipment and the list goes on.

With many government cut backs, funds for special projects are now limited, and fund raising is becoming a way of life.

Fund raising also provides other benefits, other than the actual funds obtained.

(1) Goals are established and reached, and specific objectives set.

(2) Groups plan and work together, many of which are volunteers.

(3) Pride in accomplishing and improvements in the community.

(4) Vandalism seems lessened when the community has pride in that project.

(5) Many projects create an increased public awareness (e.g. raising funds to purchase a van for persons with a disability in your community, or building an accessible playground).

An awareness program was conducted prior to the actual fund raising drive in Newmarket through a series of newspaper articles, so that when funds were requested, the public knew why.

The more the public understands about a project, and its concept, the more readily they will donate.

"We all realize the importance of government involvement funding special community projects, but we must not forget the volunteer organizations. These groups provide many services for disabled adults and children and contribute thousands of volunteer hours of service, and millions of dollars which have been raised to support these projects."

- Whipper "Billy" Watson

THE PLAYGROUND OF THE FUTURE

One of the fund raising goals of this project was not only to acquire the funds to construct the playground, but also to educate the community to the needs of ALL children.

Members of Town Council, the Municipal Offices and Member of Provincial Parliament, and dignitaries participated in the official opening of The Children's Playground of The Future.

FUND RAISING

A public awareness campaign was launched. The committee had to educate the community to the needs of all children who would be attending the playground. This would be choreographed through the media and special community events.

Prior to the construction of the Newmarket playground, many articles were published in the local papers, asking children for their input, in the form of drawing or designing a playground that they would like to see constructed in their community.

The response was excellent, and the children took a keen interest in the actual design.

A name for the playground was then needed and again the local media asked children to submit their ideas in the form of a contest co-ordinated through the local newspaper. "THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND OF THE FUTURE" was selected as the name of the Newmarket playground.

The Contest

Who was eligible:
Any child or young person 5 - 15 years old.

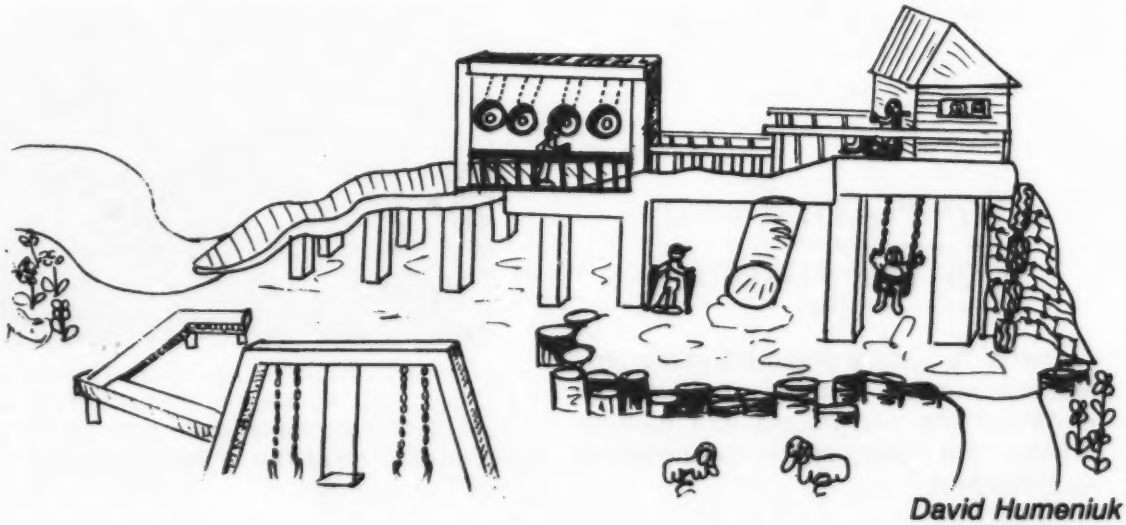
Subject:
Children at play in a playground.

Selected Pieces:
Several would be chosen to be part of this publication which would be distributed across Ontario and other parts of Canada.

Each artist was asked to print their name, address and phone number on their art work and deliver it to the local newspaper office.

The winners *would be notified and their pictures featured in a local newspaper article.*

All work had to be drawn on a white piece of paper 8 1/2" x 11" and in black ink.



David Humeniuk
Age 9
Newmarket

PUBLIC AWARENESS

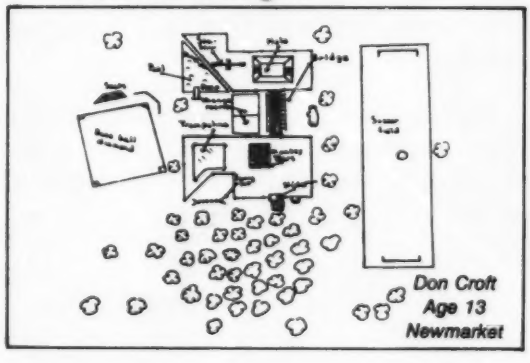
Examine the many vehicles which are available to you to promote, educate, or draw attention to your project.

- *local radio, television and cable talk shows.*
- *newspaper stories with a local flavour.*
- *media releases.*
- *special events.*
- *press conferences.*
- *public service announcements.*
- *printed material (i.e. flyers, posters, brochures, mail stuffers).*

Remember - Promotion is the Key to Success!

Media Releases

- *taylor the release to the recipient (radio, newspaper, television, magazine).*
- *do not write a lengthy description of your project, keep it short, simple, direct and to the point.*
- *include a fact sheet outlining what the project is, who it serves, your objectives and goal.*
- *television and radio public service announcements should be pre-written, with your main points of the message in the opening paragraph. It is suggested that you write two Public Service Announcements, 30 and 45 seconds in length.*



Don Croft
Age 13
Newmarket

Suggestions for Special Events

- *Art and Craft Sale*
- *Green Plant Sale*
- *Garage/White Elephant Sale*
- *Auction*
- *Car Wash*
- *Hair-Cut-A-Thon*
- *Run-A-Thon (jog, ski, skate, walk, bike)*
- *Dances*
- *Picnics*
- *Bake Sales*
- *Concerts*
- *Sporting Events-Tournaments*
- *Floral Shows*
- *Theatrical Performances*
- *Carnivals*
- *Monte Carlo's*
- *Flea Markets*

Members of the Medical Secretaries Association, Newmarket, presenting a donation to the Playground.

Whipper "Billy" Watson and Les Kensit, Newmarket Businessman receiving an escort to "The Playground of The Future" jail.

Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Dan Shannon (right), requesting bail assistance while captive in the Playground Jail.

THE SUMMONS

A Special Fund Raising Promotion

"Pay or Go to Jail" is actually what the promotion was all about. When an individual was issued a **"Playground of The Future Summons,"** *they would either pay their fine (which was really a contribution) or go to jail, and raise the bail.*

Fines were in the amounts of $10.00, $20.00 or over.

If they elected to go to jail, a "Keystone Cop" would pick them up at their place of employment or home (pre-arranged) ask them to put on a jail-bird costume, and then escort them to the "playground jail" at the local indoor mall.

One of Newmarket's prominent citizens was arrested on a Friday morning. He asked if he may remain in the jail for the day. At the end of the day, he counted the quarters and dollar bills that people had donated to him through the jail bars.

He raised seven hundred dollars, and had a terrific time doing so.

In the 5 day "Pay or Go to Jail" promotion, over $5,000 was raised, while operating only a few short hours each day.

Wives arrested their husbands, citizens arrested the politicians, and everyone enjoyed themselves. The end result was that the community was working on a project together for their children.

A promotion such as this has a tremendous potential if organized on a larger scale and with several months lead in time.

Side 1

SUMMONS

Name _____

Address _____

_____ **Phone** _____

You are hereby notified that a summons has been filed in the court of the

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND OF THE FUTURE

By P.C. _____

Address _____

_____ **Phone** _____

You have been charged with the offence of:

NON-SUPPORT

of the aforementioned fund-raising project and as a result, you are to be fined the sum of:

( ) $10
( ) $20
or over ( ) $_____

☐ Please check if receipt is required.

It is **imperative** that you enter your plea on the reverse side of this document and return it to the address indicated, or call

895-3666

between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.,
June 23 to June 28th, inclusive.

Side 2

I am aware of the charge laid against me and hereby enter my plea.

☐ **Guilty** ☐ **Not Guilty**

In pleading not guilty, I recognize that the issuer of this summons is responsible for the fine levied against me and I agree to serve a term in the County Jail of Upper Canada Mall for a period of time determined by the Court.

Signed _____

Please make cheque payable to:

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND OF THE FUTURE

Mail to:

Mrs. Mary Blackwell (Co-ordinator)
c/o Jarmain Cable TV
20 Gladman AVenue
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 2N2

Upon receipt of this summons and your cheque, you and the issuer become eligible to win a

FANTASTIC PRIZE

in a draw sponsored by CKAN Radio 1480. Draw to be held at Upper Canada Mall on Saturday, June 28, 1980.

Winners will be notified

Madsen Greenhouses (L), Newmarket Garden Centre (R) sponsored a "Green and Growing" Plant night. Proceeds to the Playground. Over 600 people attended.

COMMUNITY DONATIONS

The following organizations contributed their time or funds to help make The Children's Playground of The Future a real success.

- *The Newmarket Arts and Crafts Council.*
- *Rogers Cable Television (Formerly Jarmain Cable)*
- *Bell Canada and The Bell Pioneers*
- *Newmarket Theatre Centre*
- *The Knights of Columbus: Newmarket*
- *Newmarket Kinsmen & Kinettes*
- *The Newmarket Handicap Club*
- *The Ontario Medical Secretaries Association: Newmarket*
- *The Optimist Club of Newmarket*
- *Newmarket Jaycees & Jaycettes*
- *East Gwillimbury Girl Guides*
- *Newmarket Girl Guides*
- *CKAN Radio - 1480*
- *The Topic Newsmagazine*
- *The Era Newspaper*
- *The Banner Newspaper*
- *The Newmarket Garden Centre*
- *Madsen Greenhouses*
- *Colonial Chev Olds*
- *CKVR-TV*

and of course the Town of Newmarket and the Recreation Department.

The Commemorative Structure

In honour of their participation, a commemorative structure was placed at the playground site, as a reminder to the community of the individuals, groups, and corporations who made this project a reality.

The Structure cost approximately $250.00 for the wood, and an additional $5.00 per plaque for the individual carving.

A Local Automotive Dealership kindly donated this structure to the playground.

Other organizations had individual fund raising events, and through media assistance, many of these functions were very successful.

There were:

(1) Button Sales: $1.00 donated to the Playground for each button sold.

(2) Dances: held by youth organizations, service clubs, schools and churches.

(3) Children with playground cannisters collecting door to door.

(4) Raffles and Draws: tickets $1.00 each. The winner would be presented with a playground unit for their backyard scaled to residential use.

(5) Plant Sales

(6) Arts and Crafts Sales: The Newmarket Arts and Crafts Council (through their Annual Festival) donated $21,000.00 to the playground project.

(7) "Pay Or Go To Jail" promotion co-ordinated by Rogers Cable TV (formerly Jarmain) generated over $5,000.00.

Clubs and organizations in Newmarket not only contributed funds to the playground but also necessary additions such as trees, and park benches.

The Optimist Club of Newmarket met Saturday mornings, purchased the materials needed to build benches for the playground and constructed several benches for the playsite.

The benches were presented to Recreation Commissioner Dan Shannon, and the community now enjoys the comfort of this donation. The Optimist Club was thanked in the local newspapers for the community work.

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APPENDIX:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Wm. Rock Jr.: *Landscape Architect.*

Lady Allen of Hurtwood: *Landscape Architect, F.I.L.A.*

Robert Lockhart: *M.E.S. Balmer, Crapo and Assoc., Inc. - Waterloo.*

Dr. Joseph Levy: *Associate Professor, Department of Recreation, University of Waterloo.*

Freidrich Froebel: *German Philosopher & Educator.*

Polly Hill: *Project Director, Children's Environments Advisory Service, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, National Office, Ottawa.*

A. B. Etkes: *American Architect.*

John Keats: *English Poet (1795 - 1821).*

M. Paul Friedberg

Bill Gearheart

Mel Wesshahn

Whipper "Billy" Watson

Mayor Raymond J. Twinney: *Town of Newmarket.*

Commissioner Daniel Shannon: *Town of Newmarket.*

Horst Henke: *President, Children's Playgrounds Inc.*

Urlrich Henke: *Children's Playgrounds Inc.*

Gabriel D'Aoust: *President, Landscape Planning Limited.*

Dr. Howard A. Rusk, M.D.

Peggy Hutchison: *Department of Recreation, University of Waterloo.*

John Lord: *Kitchener.*

Ronnie Gordon: *Assistant Professor of Clinical Rehabilitation Medicine; New York University Medical Centre and Director of Infant and Pre-School Developmental Programs.*

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David Humeniuk: *Student, Newmarket, 10 years old.*

Don Croft: *Student, Newmarket, 13 year old.*

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Robert Alary: *The Era Newspaper, Newmarket, Ontario.*

Michael Barrett: *The Topic Newsmagazine, Bradford, Ontario.*

Diane Humeniuk: *Newmarket, Ontario.*

Horst Henke: *President, Children's Playgrounds Inc.*

Shelly Rogers: *Student, Newmarket, Ontario.*

The Era Newspaper: *Newmarket, Ontario.*

The Topic Newsmagazine: *Bradford, Ontario.*

Rob Alary - Photographer

"Children's most important business is play"

- Lady Allen of Hurtwood

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND OF THE FUTURE

Accessible to all children

Chairman: Diane Humeniuk
Co-ordinator: Mary Blackwell
Advisor: Whipper "Billy" Watson

WE NEED YOUR

HE L P!

PAY OR GO TO JAIL PROMOTION

"Our most important goal and aim is to make life happier for children"

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ISBN-0-7743-8480-3
2M/7/83